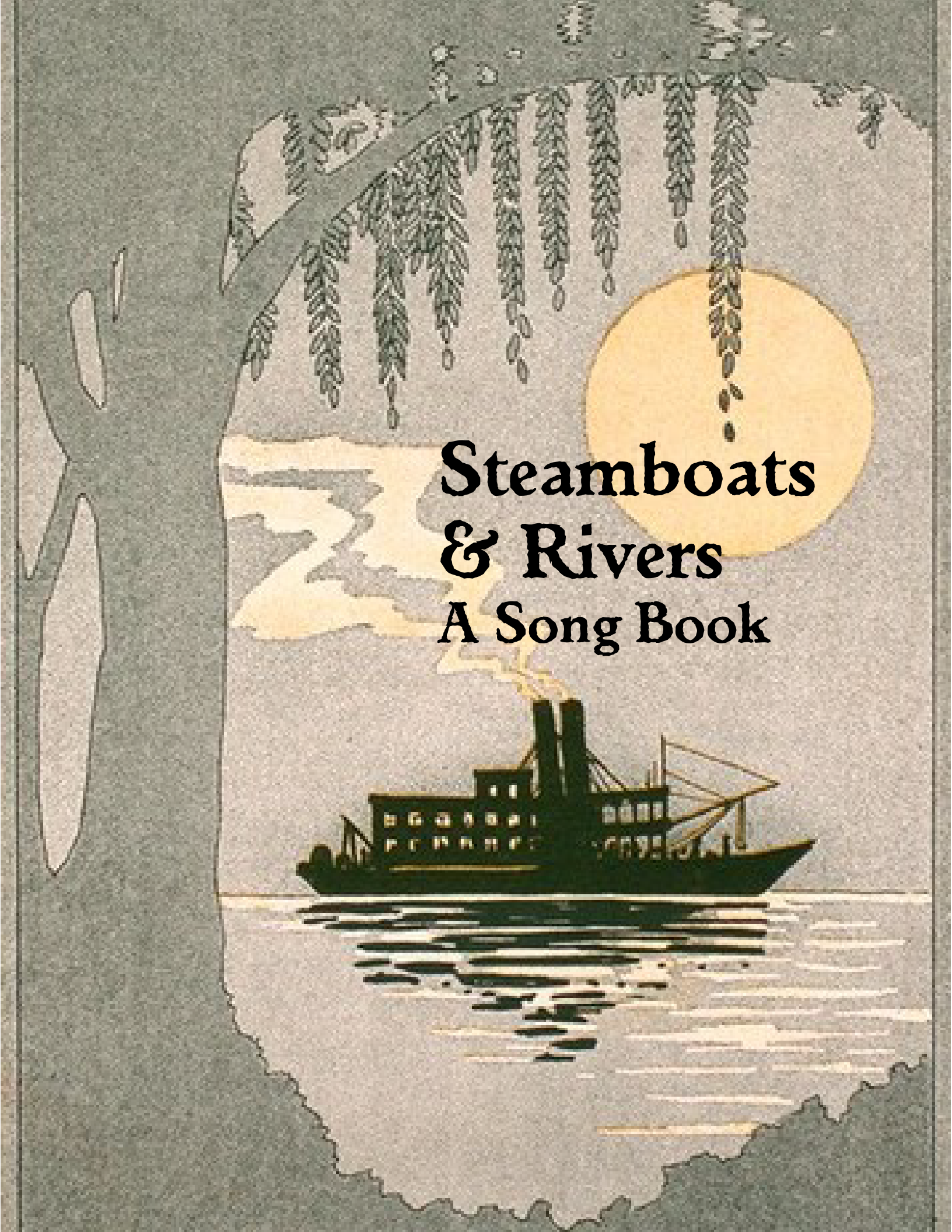


Steamboats & Rivers

A Song Book

Steamboats and Rivers: A Song Book

compiled by Hoyle Osborne

Here are 181 songs about steamboats, the great rivers, and towns and states along the rivers. The songs are grouped by time periods and/or musical genres.

This collection results from my several seasons as an entertainer on the steamboats Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen, which cruised mainly on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

Especially with songs created before the Civil Rights movement, one will find many words in the lyrics that we now regard as disrepectful of African Americans. Although it is possible in some scholarly and/or historical settings to use the original lyrics, it is generally better to "clean up" the lyrics for contemporary presentation. These lead sheets use the modernized lyrics for the most part, but singers should certainly make any further changes they feel necessary.

This book will keep growing as I find and notate more songs.

About the editor:

Born, raised, graduated high school in Austin, Texas. I played trombone in school bands, took piano lessons, and was engaged with the folk music scene. When I was sixteen, I had a year of lessons with composer John Barnes Chance, who gave me a free-wheeling introduction to music theory and composition.

I have been been partner in life and music with singer, songwriter, guitarist, Jane Voss, since 1976. We've played concerts and folk festivals across the country. We've recorded a dozen albums and been featured on several public radio shows heard nationally.

You can catch a quick glimpse of me, and a slightly longer bit of my piano music under Harrison Ford, in ***Cowboys & Aliens*** (saloon scene near the end).

Notes about the lead sheets:

Songs have been set in keys that are relatively comfortable for alto and baritone voices, and that are relatively easy to play on guitar and string band instruments.

Especially on songs taken from old sheet music, the lead sheets sometimes include distinctive instrumental fills, counter-melodies, and bass lines. These are mostly presented in smaller notes, with stems going in opposite direction from melody notes. These lines are rarely essential, but they can add nice touches to a performance arrangement.

Many of the songs from the ragtime years and the jazz age have two main sections — an opening Verse plus the Chorus. The choruses are the important part. The verses are optional. Verses can be sung right at the beginning of an arrangement or after the first time through the chorus. Instrumental breaks are most often based on the chorus.

There are some places where chords are given in the form **C/G**. That means that the basic chord is **C**, but the preferred bass note is **G**. That information can be useful to bass and keyboard players.

Some songs include the "half-diminished seventh" chord, indicated by the symbol **ø7**. This the more correct way to indicate the chord which often appears in sheet music as "minor with a sixth" (**m6**). **F#ø7** has the same four notes (F#-A-C-E) as **Am6**, so one can simplify a half-diminished chord by playing the minor chord based on the note a minor third up from the root of the half-diminished chord. The main difference is that the half-diminished-seventh uses the correct bass note as the name of the chord. The half-diminished-seventh occurs naturally in the major scale as the four note chord built on the seventh step of the scale (in C, that would the chord built on B – B-D-F-A).

Recordings of most of these songs can be found at YouTube and other sites. There is a very large collection of recordings from the first half of the 20th century located at the Internet Archive, called "78 RPMs and Cylinder Recordings" [https://archive.org/details/78rpm]. The best site for scans of original sheet music of songs published before 1924 is the Sheet Music Consortium of the UCLA Library [http://digital2.library.ucla.edu/sheetmusic/].

Steamboats and Rivers: A Song Book

Table of Contents

Ragtime Era [1896-1920]

1. Alabama Jubilee [Cobb-Yellen 1915]
2. All Aboard for Dixie Land [Cobb-Yellen 1914]
3. Are You From Dixie? [Cobb-Yellen 1915]
4. At the Mississippi Cabaret [Gumble-Brown 1915]
5. Beale Street Blues [Handy 1917]
6. Beautiful Ohio [Earl-MacDonald 1918]
7. By the Watermelon Vine (Lindy Lou) [Allen 1904]
8. Camp-Meeting Shore [Owens-Tall 1913]
9. Down Among the Sugar Cane [Mack-Smith-Avery-Hart 1918]
10. Down Around the River (At the Dixie Jubilee) [Morris-Yellen 1919]
11. Down by the Old Mill Stream [Taylor 1910]
12. Down in Dear Old New Orleans [Conrad-Whidden-Young 1912]
13. Down on the Levee [Cobb-Yellen 1912]
14. Down on the Levee (All Day Long the Darkies Are Singing) [Brooks 1914]
15. Floatin' Down to Cotton Town [Klickmann-Frost 1919]
16. Floating Down the River [White-Lewis 1913]
17. Hear That Steamboat Whistle Blowing [Rietzel-Olevson 1913]
18. I've Been Floating Down That Old Green River [Cooper-Kalmar 1915]
19. (Back Home in) Indiana [Hanley-MacDonald 1917]
20. Jazzin' the Cotton Town Blues [Olsen-Lewis 1917]
21. Kentucky Babe [Geibel-Buck 1896]
22. Lazy Mississippi [MacDonald-Levenson 1920]
23. Levee Lou [Edwards-Madden 1912]
24. Loading Up the Mandy Lee [Marshall-Murphy 1915]
25. Louisiana [Wallace-Freed 1920]
26. Louisiana Lou [Stuart 1894]
27. Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis [Mills-Sterling 1904]
28. Memphis Blues [Handy 1912]
29. Mississippi Splash [Shay-Green 1911]
30. Mississippi Stoker [Jones 1907]
31. Missouri Waltz [Eppel-Shannon 1914]
32. Moonlight Bay [Wenrich-Madden 1912]
33. New Orleans Hop Scop Blues [Thomas 1916]
34. (Floating Down the Mississippi River) On My Way to New Orleans [Von Tilzer-MacDonald 1915]
35. On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away [Dresser 1897]
36. On the Mississippi [Carroll-Fields-MacDonald 1912]
37. Red Wing [Mills-Chattaway 1907]
38. Rock-a-Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody [Schwartz-Lewis-Young 1918]
39. See Those Mississippi Steamboats on Parade [Straight-Kelsey 1916]
40. St. Louis Blues [Handy 1914]
41. Steamboat Bill [Leighton Brothers-Shields 1910]
42. Swanee [Gershwin-Caesar 1919]
43. Take Me to the Land of Jazz [Wendling-Leslie-Kalmar 1919]
44. Tishomingo Blues [Spencer Williams 1917]
45. Tug Boat Joe [Sorensen-Brückmann 1913]
46. Waiting for the Robert E. Lee [Muir-Gilber 1912]
47. Way Down in Arkansas [White 1915]
48. When the Steamboats on the Swanee Whistle Rag-time [Brennan-Caddigan 1913]

49. Where That Ol' Man River Flows [Verges-West 1920]
50. Where That Ragtime River Flows [Shannon 1912]
51. Where the Lazy Mississippi Flows [DeFreyne-Ffrench 1920]

Jazz Age [1921-1931]

1. Arkansas Blues [Lada-Williams 1921]
2. Backwater Blues [Smith 1927]
3. Basin Street Blues [Williams 1928]
4. Big Bad Bill (Is Sweet William Now) [Ager-Yellen 1929]
5. Blue Kentucky Moon [Donaldson 1931]
6. Blue River [Meyer-Bryan 1927]
7. By the Bend of the River [Edwards-Haig 1927]
8. Dear Old Southland [Layton-Creamer 1921]
9. Down Around the 'Sip 'Sip 'Sippy Shore [Donaldson-Young-Lewis 1921]
10. Down by the O-HI-O [Olman-Yellen 1926]
11. Down by the River [Creamer-Layton 1923]
12. Down Yonder [Gilbert 1921]
13. Dream River [Brown 1928]
14. Dusky Stevedore [Johnson-Razaf 1928]
15. God's River (Mighty River) [Baskette 1928]
16. Here Comes the Show Boat [Pinkard-Rose 1927]
17. I Wish't I Was in Peoria [Woods-Rose-Dixon 1925]
18. Lazy River [Carmichael-Arodin 1931]
19. Levee Land [Gumble-Rogers 1922]
20. Lou'siana [Donaldson-Kahn 1923]
21. Louisville Lou [Ager-Yellen 1923]
22. Mississippi Choo-Choo [Frost-Rose 1923]
23. Mississippi Mud [Barris 1927]
24. Mississippi Ripples [Hanley-Earl 1922]
25. Mississippi Steamboat [Walker 1922]
26. Muddy Water [DeRose-Richaman-Trent 1926]
27. My Ohio Home [Donaldson-Kahn 1927]
28. My Sunny Tennessee [Kalmar-Ruby 1921]
29. New Orleans Wiggle [Bocage-Piron-Williams 1924]
30. Ol' Man River [Kern-Hammerstein 1927]
31. Ready for the River [Moret-Kahn 1928]
32. Ridin' on the Steamer J.S. [Jarrett 1925]
33. River, Stay 'Way From My Door [Woods-Dixon 1931]
34. Riverboat Shuffle [Carmichael-Voynow-Mills-Parrish 1925]
35. Roll Along Missouri [Jerome-Kalmar-Ruby 1923]
36. Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On [West-McCaffrey-Ringle 1931]
37. Rollin' Down the River [Waller-Adams 1930]
38. Sadie Green (The Vamp of New Orleans) [Wells-Dunn 1926]
39. St. James Infirmary [Primrose 1930]
40. Steamboat Blues [Donaldson-Kahn 1923]
41. Steamboat Sal [Fisher-Raskin-Causer 1923]
42. Sweet Indiana Home [Donaldson 1922]
43. Wabash Blues [Meinken-Ringle 1921]
44. 'Way Down Yonder in New Orleans [Creamer-Layton 1922]
45. Weary River [Silvers-Clarke 1929]
46. When It's Sleepy Time Down South [René-Muse 1931]
47. Where the Shy Little Violets Grow [Warren-Kahn 1928]

Swing Years [1932-1948]

1. Cruising Down the River [Beadell-Tollerton 1945]
2. Darkness on the Delta [Levinson-Symes-Neiburg 1932]
3. Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans? [DeLange-Alter 1946]
4. I Cover the Waterfront [Green-Heyman 1933]
5. Louisiana [Johnson-Razaf-Schafer 1936]
6. Memphis in June [Carmichael-Webster 1948]
7. Mississippi Basin [Foresythe-Razaf 1933]
8. My River Home [Petkere-Young 1932]
9. New Orleans [Carmichael 1932]
10. The River's Taking Care of Me [Adams-Greer 1933]

Mid-Century Popular Songs

1. Blue Bayou [Roy Orbison-Melson 1961]
2. Bridge Over Troubled Water [Simon 1969]
3. Can't Help Falling in Love [Weiss-Peretti-Creatore 1961]
4. A Change Is Gonna Come [Cooke 1964]
5. City of New Orleans [Goodman 1970]
6. Come on Down to My Boat [Farrell-Goldstein 1966]
7. Cry Me a River [Hamilton 1953]
8. Delta Queen Waltz [Hartford 1989]
9. Green River [Fogerty 1969]
10. Louisiana 1927 [Newman 1974]
11. Lullabye in Ragtime [Fine 1959]
12. Mardi Gras in New Orleans [Byrd 1949]
13. Mardi Gras Mambo [Adams-Welsch 1953]
14. Memphis, Tennessee [Berry 1959]
15. Moody River [Bruce 1961]
16. Moon River [Mancini-Mercer 1961]
17. Proud Mary [Fogerty 1969]
18. Ripple [Garcia-Hunter 1973]
19. The River of No Return [Newman-Darby 1954]
20. Somos el barco [Wyatt 1984]
21. Steamboat [Lucas 1955]
22. Stuck Inside of Mobile With the Memphis Blues Again [Dylan 1966]
23. Take Me Home, Country Roads [Danoff-Nivert-Denver 1971]
24. Tennessee Blues [Charles 1967]
25. Up to My Neck in High Muddy Water [Herald-Wakefield-Yellin 1966]
26. Walking to New Orleans [Domino-Bartholomew-Guidry 1960]

Country Music

1. Alligator Man [Chance 1961]
2. Big River [Cash 1957]
3. Blue Moon of Kentucky [Monroe 1947]
4. Eight More Miles to Louisville [Jones 1947]
5. Foggy River [Rose 1947]
6. Happy on the Mississippi Shore [Delmore 1940]
7. I've Got the Big River Blues [Delmore 1933]
8. Jambalaya (On the Bayou) [Williams 1952]
9. Kentucky [Davis 1942]
10. Kentucky Waltz [Monroe 1938]
11. Louisiana Man [Kershaw 1961]
12. M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I [Williams-Simmons 1950]
13. Me and Bobby McGee [Kristofferson-Foster 1969]
14. Miss the Mississippi and You [Halley 1932]
15. Mississippi Delta Blues [Rodgers-Neville 1933]
16. Mississippi River Blues [Rodgers 1929]
17. The River [Shaw-Brooks 1991]
18. Rock About My Saro Jane [Macon 1927]
19. Rocky Top [Bryant 1967]
20. Roll Along, Kentucky Moon [Halley 1932]
21. Run Softly, Blue River [Cash 1959]
22. Steamboat Keep a-Rockin' [Robison 1928]
23. Tennessee Stud [Driftwood 1958]
24. Tennessee Waltz [Stewart-King 1948]

Folk & 19th Century Songs

1. Boatman's Dance [Virginia Minstrels 1846]
2. Cap'n Jim Reese Said
3. Darling Nelly Gray [Hanby 1856]
4. Deep River
5. Dink's Song
6. Down by the Riverside
7. Down in the Cane Brake
8. Down on the Banks of the Ohio
9. Fishing Blues [Thomas 1929]
10. Glendy Burk [Foster 1860]
11. Gum Tree Canoe [Steele 1867]
12. The House of the Rising Sun
13. I've Got Peace Like a River
14. Michael, Row the Boat Ashore
15. Movin' on Down the River [Ritchie 1964]
16. One More River to Cross
17. Roll, Jordan, Roll
18. Shall We Gather at the River? [Lowry 1864]
19. Shenandoah
20. Tell That Woman [Dixon 1950]
21. Wade in the Water
22. The Water Is Wide
23. We Are Crossing Jordan River

Steamboats and Rivers: A Song Book

alphabetical index

Alabama Jubilee [Cobb-Yellen 1915] [Ragtime Years]
All Aboard for Dixie Land [Cobb-Yellen 1914] [Ragtime Years]
Alligator Man [Chance 1961] [Country]
Are You From Dixie? [Cobb-Yellen 1915] [Ragtime Years]
Arkansas Blues [Lada-Williams 1921] [Jazz Age]
At the Mississippi Cabaret [Gumble-Brown 1915] [Ragtime Years]
Backwater Blues [Smith 1927] [Jazz Age]
Basin Street Blues [Williams 1928] [Jazz Age]
Beale Street Blues [Handy 1917] [Ragtime Years]
Beautiful Ohio [Earl-MacDonald 1918] [Ragtime Years]
Big Bad Bill (Is Sweet William Now) [Ager-Yellen 1929] [Jazz Age]
Big River [Cash 1957] [Country]
Blue Bayou [Roy Orbison-Melson 1961] [Mid-Century]
Blue Kentucky Moon [Donaldson 1931] [Jazz Age]
Blue Moon of Kentucky [Monroe 1947] [Country]
Blue River [Meyer-Bryan 1927] [Jazz Age]
Boatman's Dance [Virginia Minstrels 1846] [Folk]
Bridge Over Troubled Water [Simon 1969] [Mid-Century]
By the Bend of the River [Edwards-Haig 1927] [Jazz Age]
By the Watermelon Vine (Lindy Lou) [Allen 1904] [Ragtime Years]
Camp-Meeting Shore [Owens-Tall 1913] [Ragtime Years]
Can't Help Falling in Love [Weiss-Peretti-Creatore 1961] [Mid-Century]
Cap'n Jim Reese Said [Folk]
A Change Is Gonna Come [Cooke 1964] [Mid-Century]
City of New Orleans [Goodman 1970] [Mid-Century]
Come on Down to My Boat [Farrell-Goldstein 1966] [Mid-Century]
Cruising Down the River [Beadell-Tollerton 1945] [Swing Years]
Cry Me a River [Hamilton 1953] [Mid-Century]
Darkness on the Delta [Levinson-Symes-Neiburg 1932] [Swing Years]
Darling Nelly Gray [Hanby 1856] [Folk]
Dear Old Southland [Layton-Creamer 1921] [Jazz Age]
Deep River [Folk]
Delta Queen Waltz [Hartford 1989] [Mid-Century]
Dink's Song [Folk]
Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans? [DeLange-Alter 1946] [Swing Years]
Down Among the Sugar Cane [Mack-Smith-Avery-Hart 1918] [Ragtime Years]
Down Around the River (At the Dixie Jubilee) [Morris-Yellen 1919] [Ragtime Years]
Down Around the 'Sip 'Sip 'Sippy Shore [Donaldson-Young-Lewis 1921] [Jazz Age]
Down by the O-HI-O [Olman-Yellen 1926] [Jazz Age]
Down by the Old Mill Stream [Taylor 1910] [Ragtime Years]
Down by the River [Creamer-Layton 1923] [Jazz Age]
Down by the Riverside [Folk]
Down in Dear Old New Orleans [Conrad-Whidden-Young 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Down in the Cane Brake [Folk]
Down on the Banks of the Ohio [Folk]
Down on the Levee [Cobb-Yellen 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Down on the Levee (All Day Long the Darkies Are Singing) [Brooks 1914] [Ragtime Years]
Down Yonder [Gilbert 1921] [Jazz Age]
Dream River [Brown 1928] [Jazz Age]
Dusky Stevedore [Johnson-Razaf 1928] [Jazz Age]
Eight More Miles to Louisville [Jones 1947] [Country]
Fishing Blues [Thomas 1929] [Folk]
Floatin' Down to Cotton Town [Klickmann-Frost 1919] [Ragtime Years]
Floating Down the River [White-Lewis 1913] [Ragtime Years]
Foggy River [Rose 1947] [Country]
Glendy Burk [Foster 1860] [Folk]
God's River (Mighty River) [Baskette 1928] [Jazz Age]

Green River [Fogerty 1969] [Mid-Century]
Gum Tree Canoe [Steele 1867] [Folk]
Happy on the Mississippi Shore [Delmore 1940] [Country]
Hear That Steamboat Whistle Blowing [Rietzel-Olevson 1913] [Ragtime Years]
Here Comes the Show Boat [Pinkard-Rose 1927] [Jazz Age]
The House of the Rising Sun [Folk]
I Cover the Waterfront [Green-Heyman 1933] [Swing Years]
I Wish't I Was in Peoria [Woods-Rose-Dixon 1925] [Jazz Age]
I've Been Floating Down That Old Green River [Cooper-Kalmar 1915] [Ragtime Years]
I've Got Peace Like a River [Folk]
I've Got the Big River Blues [Delmore 1933] [Country]
(Back Home in) Indiana [Hanley-MacDonald 1917] [Ragtime Years]
Jambalaya (On the Bayou) [Williams 1952] [Country]
Jazzin' the Cotton Town Blues [Olsen-Lewis 1917] [Ragtime Years]
Kentucky [Davis 1942] [Country]
Kentucky Babe [Geibel-Buck 1896] [Ragtime Years]
Kentucky Waltz [Monroe 1938] [Country]
Lazy Mississippi [MacDonald-Levenson 1920] [Ragtime Years]
Lazy River [Carmichael-Arodin 1931] [Jazz Age]
Levee Land [Gumble-Rogers 1922] [Jazz Age]
Levee Lou [Edwards-Madden 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Loading Up the Mandy Lee [Marshall-Murphy 1915] [Ragtime Years]
Lou'siana [Donaldson-Kahn 1923] [Jazz Age]
Louisiana [Wallace-Freed 1920] [Ragtime Years]
Louisiana [Johnson-Razaf-Schafer 1936] [Swing Years]
Louisiana 1927 [Newman 1974] [Mid-Century]
Louisiana Lou [Stuart 1894] [Ragtime Years]
Louisiana Man [Kershaw 1961] [Country]
Louisville Lou [Ager-Yellen 1923] [Jazz Age]
Lullabye in Ragtime [Fine 1959] [Mid-Century]
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I [Williams-Simmons 1950] [Country]
Mardi Gras in New Orleans [Byrd 1949] [Mid-Century]
Mardi Gras Mambo [Adams-Welsch 1953] [Mid-Century]
Me and Bobby McGee [Kristofferson-Foster 1969] [Country]
Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis [Mills-Sterling 1904] [Ragtime Years]
Memphis Blues [Handy 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Memphis in June [Carmichael-Webster 1948] [Swing Years]
Memphis, Tennessee [Berry 1959] [Mid-Century]
Michael, Row the Boat Ashore [Folk]
Miss the Mississippi and You [Halley 1932] [Country]
Mississippi Basin [Foresythe-Razaf 1933] [Swing Years]
Mississippi Choo-Choo [Frost-Rose 1923]
Mississippi Delta Blues [Rodgers-Neville 1933] [Country]
Mississippi Mud [Barris 1927] [Jazz Age]
Mississippi River Blues [Rodgers 1929] [Country]
Mississippi Splash [Shay-Green 1911] [Ragtime Years]
Mississippi Steamboat [Walker 1922] [Jazz Age]
Mississippi Stoker [Jones 1907] [Ragtime Years]
Missouri Waltz [Eppel-Shannon 1914] [Ragtime Years]
Moody River [Bruce 1961] [Mid-Century]
Moon River [Mancini-Mercer 1961] [Mid-Century]
Moonlight Bay [Wenrich-Madden 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Movin' on Down the River [Ritchie 1964] [Folk]
Muddy Water [DeRose-Richaman-Trent 1926] [Jazz Age]
My Ohio Home [Donaldson-Kahn 1927] [Jazz Age]
My River Home [Petkere-Young 1932] [Swing Years]
My Sunny Tennessee [Kalmar-Ruby 1921] [Jazz Age]
New Orleans [Carmichael 1932] [Swing Years]
New Orleans Hop Scop Blues [Thomas 1916] [Ragtime Years]
New Orleans Wiggle [Bocage-Piron-Williams 1924] [Jazz Age]
Ol' Man River [Kern-Hammerstein 1927] [Jazz Age]
(Floating Down the Mississippi River) On My Way to New Orleans [Von Tilzer-MacDonald 1915] [Ragtime Years]
On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away [Dresser 1897] [Ragtime Years]

On the Mississippi [Carroll-Fields-MacDonald 1912] [Ragtime Years]
One More River to Cross [Folk]
Proud Mary [Fogerty 1969] [Mid-Century]
Ready for the River [Moret-Kahn 1928] [Jazz Age]
Red Wing [Mills-Chattaway 1907] [Ragtime Years]
Ridin' on the Steamer J.S. [Jarrett 1925] [Jazz Age]
Ripple [Garcia-Hunter 1973] [Mid-Century]
The River [Shaw-Brooks 1991] [Country]
River of No Return [Newman-Darby 1954] [Mid-Century]
River, Stay 'Way From My Door [Woods-Dixon 1931] [Jazz Age]
The River's Taking Care of Me [Adams-Greer 1933] [Swing Years]
Riverboat Shuffle [Carmichael-Voynow-Mills-Parrish 1925] [Jazz Age]
Rock About My Saro Jane [Macon 1927] [Country]
Rock-a-Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody [Schwartz-Lewis-Young 1918] [Ragtime Years]
Rocky Top [Bryant 1967] [Country]
Roll Along, Kentucky Moon [Halley 1932] [Country]
Roll Along Missouri [Jerome-Kalmar-Ruby 1923] [Jazz Age]
Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On [West-McCaffrey-Ringle 1931] [Jazz Age]
Roll, Jordan, Roll [Folk]
Rollin' Down the River [Waller-Adams 1930] [Jazz Age]
Run Softly, Blue River [Cash 1959] [Country]
Sadie Green (The Vamp of New Orleans) [Wells-Dunn 1926] [Jazz Age]
See Those Mississippi Steamboats on Parade [Straight-Kelsey 1916] [Ragtime Years]
Shall We Gather at the River? [Lowry 1864] [Folk]
Shenandoah [Folk]
Somos el barco [Wyatt 1984] [Mid-Century]
St. James Infirmary [Primrose 1930] [Jazz Age]
St. Louis Blues [Handy 1914] [Ragtime Years]
Steamboat [Lucas 1955] [Mid-Century]
Steamboat Bill [Leighton Brothers-Shields 1910] [Ragtime Years]
Steamboat Blues [Donaldson-Kahn 1923] [Jazz Age]
Steamboat Keep a-Rockin' [Robison 1928] [Country]
Steamboat Sal [Fisher-Raskin-Causer 1923] [Jazz Age]
Stuck Inside of Mobile With the Memphis Blues Again [Dylan 1966] [Mid-Century]
Swanee [Gershwin-Caesar 1919] [Ragtime Years]
Sweet Indiana Home [Donaldson 1922] [Jazz Age]
Take Me Home, Country Roads [Danoff-Nivert-Denver 1971] [Mid-Century]
Take Me to the Land of Jazz [Wendling-Leslie-Kalmar 1919] [Ragtime Years]
Tell That Woman [Dixon 1950] [Folk]
Tennessee Blues [Charles 1967] [Mid-Century]
Tennessee Stud [Driftwood 1958] [Country]
Tennessee Waltz [Stewart-King 1948] [Country]
Tishomingo Blues [Spencer Williams 1917] [Ragtime Years]
Tug Boat Joe [Sorensen-Brückmann 1913] [Ragtime Years]
Up to My Neck in High Muddy Water [Herald-Wakefield-Yellin 1966] [Mid-Century]
Wabash Blues [Meinken-Ringle 1921] [Jazz Age]
Wade in the Water [Folk]
Waiting for the Robert E. Lee [Muir-Gilber 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Walking to New Orleans [Domino-Bartholomew-Guidry 1960] [Mid-Century]
The Water Is Wide [Folk]
Way Down in Arkansas [White 1915] [Ragtime Years]
'Way Down Yonder in New Orleans [Creamer-Layton 1922] [Jazz Age]
We Are Crossing Jordan River [Folk]
Weary River [Silvers-Clarke 1929] [Jazz Age]
When It's Sleepy Time Down South [René-Muse 1931] [Jazz Age]
When the Steamboats on the Swanee Whistle Rag-time [Brennan-Caddigan 1913] [Ragtime Years]
Where That Ol' Man River Flows [Verges-West 1920] [Ragtime Years]
Where That Ragtime River Flows [Shannon 1912] [Ragtime Years]
Where the Lazy Mississippi Flows [DeFreyne-Ffrench 1920] [Ragtime Years]
Where the Shy Little Violets Grow [Warren-Kahn 1928] [Jazz Age]

Alabama Jubilee

Original key: C
See original music at Indiana University and University of Colorado websites

music by George L. Cobb • lyrics by Jack Yellen • 1915



All Aboard for Dixie Land

sheet music key: C

music by George L. Cobb • words by Jack Yellen • 1913



Are You from Dixie?

music by George L. Cobb • lyrics by Jack Yellen • 1915



At the Mississippi Cabaret

sheet music key: C

music by Albert Gumble • words by A. Seymour Brown • 1915



Beale Street Blues

W.C. Handy • 1917



Beautiful Ohio

music by Mary Earl • lyrics by Ballard MacDonald • 1918



Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

By the Watermelon Vine

(Lindy Lou)

sheet music key: G

Thomas S. Allen • 1904



Camp Meeting Shore

sheet music key: E-flat

music by William Owens • words by Broughton Tall • 1913



Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Down Among the Sugar Cane

sheet music key: A-flat

written by Avery & Hart • composed by Cecil Mack & Chris Smith • 1908



Down Around the River

(At the Dixie Jubilee)

sheet music key: C

music by Melville Morris • words by Jack Yellen • 1919



Down by the Old Mill Stream

Tell Taylor • 1910

sheet music key: G



Down in Dear Old New Orleans

sheet music key: D minor & B-flat

music by Conrad & Whidden • words by Joe Young • 1912



Down on the Levee

sheet music key: C

music by George L. Cobb • words by Jack Yellen • 1912



Down on the Levee

(All Day Long the Roustabouts Singing)

sheet music key: B-flat

Shelton Brooks • 1914



Old-Time Songs Arranged for Stringed Instruments

Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Floatin' Down to Cotton Town

sheet music key: C

music by F. Henri Klickmann • lyric by Jack Frost • 1919



Floating Down the River

sheet music key: F

music by James White • words by Roger Lewis • 1913



Hear That Steamboat Whistle Blowing

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Wm. Rietzel • words by Leo Olevson • 1913



Old-Time Songs Arranged for Stringed Instruments

Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

I've Been Floating Down the Old Green River

words by Bert Kalmar • music by Joe Cooper • 1915



(Back Home Again in) Indiana

music by James F. Hanley • lyrics by Ballard MacDonald • 1917

sheet music key: G



Jazzin' the Cotton Town Blues

sheet music key: F / B-flat

music by Harry Olsen • words by Roger Lewis • 1917



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Kentucky Babe

music by Adam Geibel • lyrics by Ricahrd Henry Buck • 1896



Lazy Mississippi

sheet music key: G

Ballard MacDonald & Robert Levenson • 1920



Levee Lou

sheet music key: A-flat

music by Gus Edwards • words by Edward Madden • 1912



Loading Up the Mandy Lee

music by Henry I. Marshall - lyrics by Stanley Murphy - 1915



Louisiana

sheet music key: F

music by Oliver G. Wallace • lyric by Arthur Freed • 1920



Louisiana Lou

sheet music key: F

Leslie Stuart • 1894



Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis

music by Kerry Mills • Words by Andrew B. Sterling • 1904



The Memphis Blues

W.C. Handy • 1912



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D
D♯o7
A7
real har - mo - ny, I nev - er will for - get the tune that
that blue re - frain, There's noth - in' like the Han - dy band that
G7
A7
D
Han - dy called the Mem - phis Blues. They got a
played the Mem - phis Blues so grand.
G
G7
fid - dler there that al - ways slick - ens his hair, and folks he sure do pull some bow, And when the
C
G
big bas - soon sec - onds to the trom - bone's croon, it
D7
C7
D7
G
D7
moans just like a sin - ner on re - vi - val day. That mel - an -
cho - ly strain, that ev - er haunt - ing re - frain is like a del - ta sor - row song, Here comes the
C
G
ver - y part that wraps its spell a - round my heart It
D7
C7
D7
G
LXO to CODA
sets me wild hear that lov - in' tune a - gain, the Mem - phis Blues.
CODA
E♭
G
E♭
G
C
D+
G

Mississippi Splash

sheet music key: B-flat

music by Jerome Shay • words by Dave Green • 1911



The Mississippi Stoker

sheet music key: G

Earle C. Jones • 1907



I'm a stok - er on the riv - er pack - et called the Nan - cy Lee, And I'm
Once my broth - er threw a pok - er deck in - to the kit - chen fire, 'Cause I
I was on the La - dy Liz - zie when she beat the Kan - ka - kee, But they
Oh, my dad - dy was a "whal - er" with a club or bug - gy whip, And my



just a - bout the hard - est guy you'll find in Ten - nes - see. In my young - er days I used to want to
said that he was cheat - ing and he was an aw - ful liar, But I grabbed 'em out and stamped 'em till I
nev - er would have done it if it had - n't been for me. When her boil - ers up and bust - ed, and the
sis - ter wore a sail - or hat up - on her wed - ding trip. My old ma - ma knew that I would be a



sail up - on a ship, But I nev - er got no fur - ther than the mud - dy Mis - sis - sip'.
had the blaze in check. That is why I'm called "the boy who stood up - on the burn - ing deck".
La - dy Liz - zie sunk. Cap - tain John - son, he was on the dock, and I was on a drunk.
sail - or first of all, Just be - cause my hair was "wa - vy" and I nev - er feared a squall.



All my peo - ple liked the wat - er, but they
Oh, I used to fish for floun - ders and I
When the Lou - is - ville was burn - ing with her
Oh, my Un - cle Dud - ley had a yacht he



took it "on the side", And my Un - cle Hez - e - ki - ah used to go up - on a "tide". Once he
sold them, you can bet, All the peo - ple liked to buy of me, be - cause I sold 'em "net". I could
nose a - gainst the bank, I held her till the pas - sen - gers had walked a - cross the plank. Then they
called "The Spot - ted Pup", And the dog - fish used to bark at it when sail - ing for the cup, But the



went in - to a tav - ern just to get a strong ci - gar, And un - load - ed for - ty schoon - ers that were
al - ways catch the suck - ers that were swim - ming 'round the stern, 'Cause I'd wig - gle like Fa - ti - ma and they
pinned a med - al on my chest, and, gol - ly! how it hurt, For they nev - er seemed to no - tice that I
cup be nev - er lift - ed and the rea - son's might - y clear: It was just be - cause they all for - got to



stand - ing on the bar.
thought I was a worm.
had - n't on a shirt.
fill it up with beer.

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"Hush-a-bye, Ma Baby"

The Missouri Waltz

music by John Valentine Eppel • lyrics by J.R. Shannon • 1914



Moonlight Bay

music by Percy Wenrich • words by Edward Madden • 1912



New Orleans Hop Scop Blues

sheet music key: B-flat

George W. Thomas • 1916



Floating Down the Mississippi River

On My Way to New Orleans

sheet music key: G

music by Albert Von Tilzer • words by Ballard MacDonald • 1915



On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away

Paul Dresser • 1897



On the Mississippi

sheet music key: B-flat & E-flat

music by Carroll & Fields • words by Ballard MacDonald • 1912



Red Wing

music by Kerry Mills - lyrics by Thurland Chattaway - 1907



Rock-a-Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody

music by Jean Schwartz - lyrics by Sam M. Lewis & Joe Young - 1918



See Those Mississippi Steamboats on Parade

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Charley Straight • words by Joe Kelsey • 1916



The St. Louis Blues

W.C. Handy • 1914

sheet music key: G



Steamboat Bill

sheet music key: G

music by Leighton Brothers • words by Ben Shields • 1910



Swanee

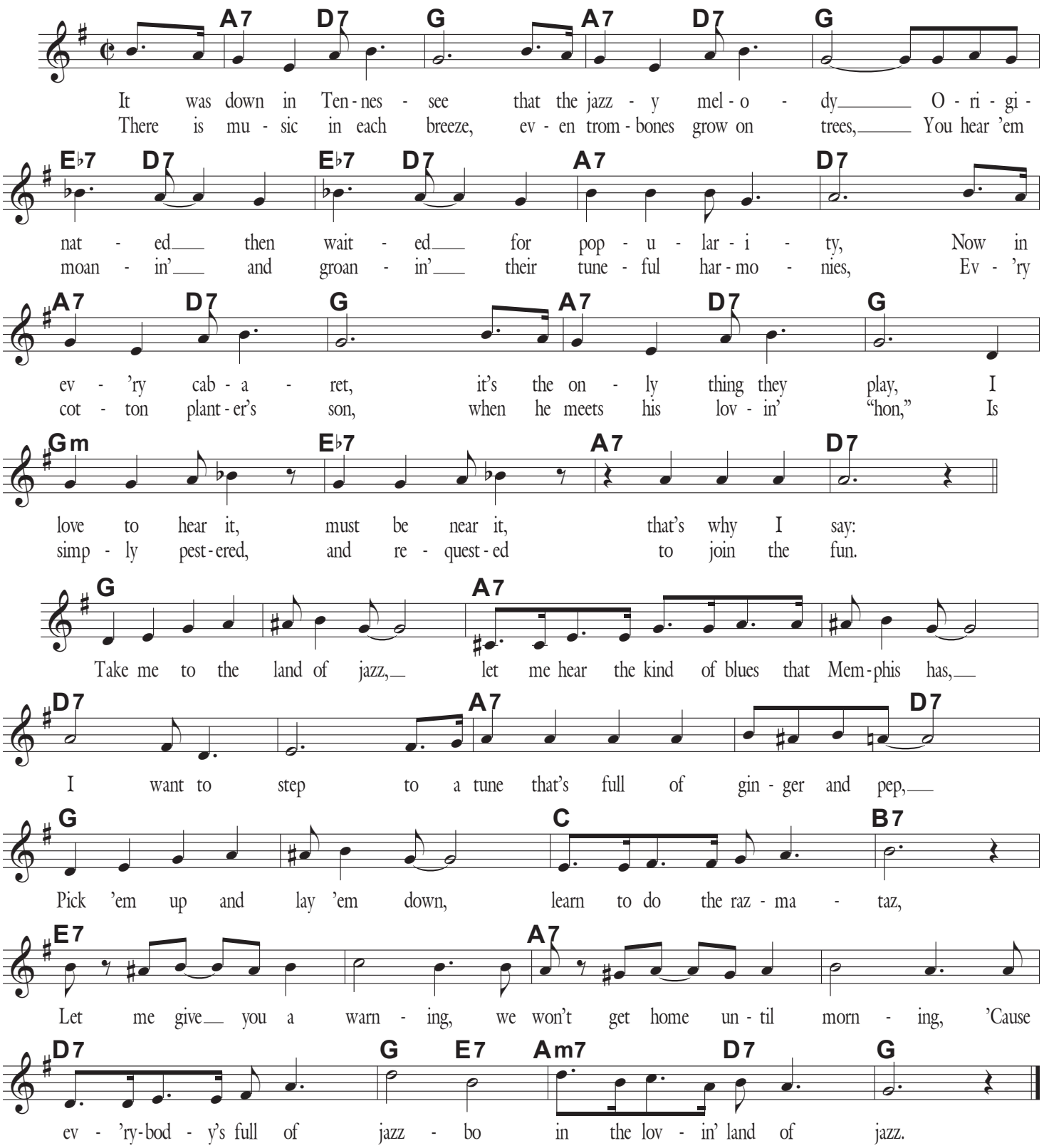
music by George Gershwin • lyrics by Irving Caesar • 1919



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Take Me to the Land of Jazz

music by Pete Wendling • lyrics by Edgar Leslie & Bert Kalmar • 1919



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Tishomingo Blues

sheet music key: G

Spencer Williams • 1917



Tug Boat Joe

Is Comin' Home Again

sheet music key: B-flat & E-flat

music by Lulu Sorensen • words by Gertrude Brückmann • 1913



Waiting for the Robert E. Lee

sheet music keys: C and F

words by L. Wolfe Gilbert • music by Lewis F. Muir • 1912



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Way Down in Arkansaw

sheet music key: F

James White • 1915



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When the Steamboats on the Swanee Whistle Rag-time

sheet music key: B-flat

music by Jas. A. Brennan • words by Jack Caddigan • 1913



Where That Ol' Man River Flows

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Joe Verges • lyric by Eugene West • 1920



Where That Ragtime River Flows

sheet music key: C
second verse lyrics

J.R. Shannon • 1912



Where the Lazy Mississippi Flows

sheet music keys: Cm/C

music by Rollo DeFreyne • words by Alexis Ffrench • 1920



Arkansas Blues

A Down Home Chant

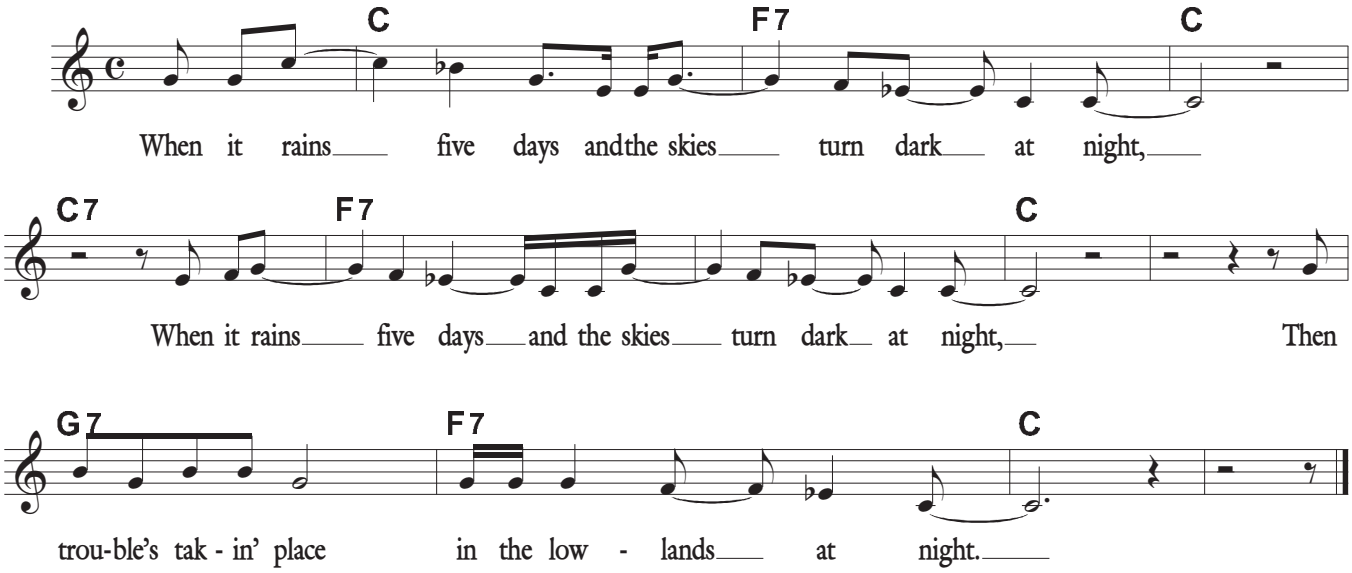
Anton Lada & Spencer Williams • 1921

sheet music key: F



Backwater Blues

Bessie Smith • 1927



I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door, *(twice)*
That's enough trouble to make a poor girl wonder where she want to go.

Then they rowed a little boat about five miles 'cross the farm, *(twice)*
I packed all my clothes, throwed them in, and they rowed me along.

When it thunders and lightnin' and the wind begins to blow, *(twice)*
There's thousands of people ain't got no place to go.

Then I went and stood upon some high old lonesome hill, *(twice)*
Then looked down on the house where I used to live.

Backwater blues done caused me to pack my things and go, *(twice)*
'Cause my house fell down and I can't live there no more.

Mm-mm, I can't move no more, *(twice)*
There ain't no place for a poor old girl to go.

Basin Street Blues

sheet music key: C
usual form: A BBBBetc. A

Spencer Williams • 1928
revised and standardized by Hoyle Osborne
second chorus from Dr. John



Big Bad Bill

Is Sweet William Now

music by Milton Ager • lyrics by Jack Yellen • 1929



Blue Kentucky Moon

sheet music key: B-flat

Walter Donaldson • 1931



Blue River

words by Alfred Bryan • music by Joseph Meyer • 1927



By the Bend of the River

music by Clara Edwards • lyrics by Bernhard Haig • 1927

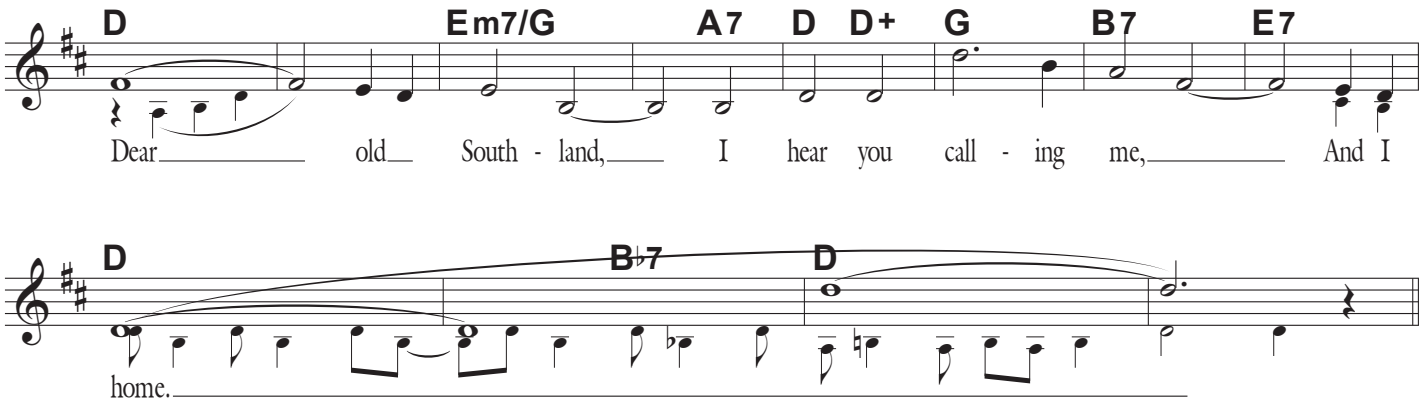


Dear Old Southland

sheet music key: F

music by Turner Layton • lyric by Henry Creamer • 1921




D
Em7/G
A7
D
D+
G
B7
E7
Dear old South - land, I hear you call - ing me, And I
D
B♭7
D
home.

Down Around the 'Sip 'Sip 'Sippy Shore

sheet music key: C

music by Walter Donaldson • words by Joe Young & Sam M. Lewis • 1921



Down by the O-HI-O

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Abe Olman • words by Jack Yellen • 1926



Down by the River

sheet music key: F

Creamer & Layton • 1923



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Down Yonder

L. Wolfe Gilbert • 1921

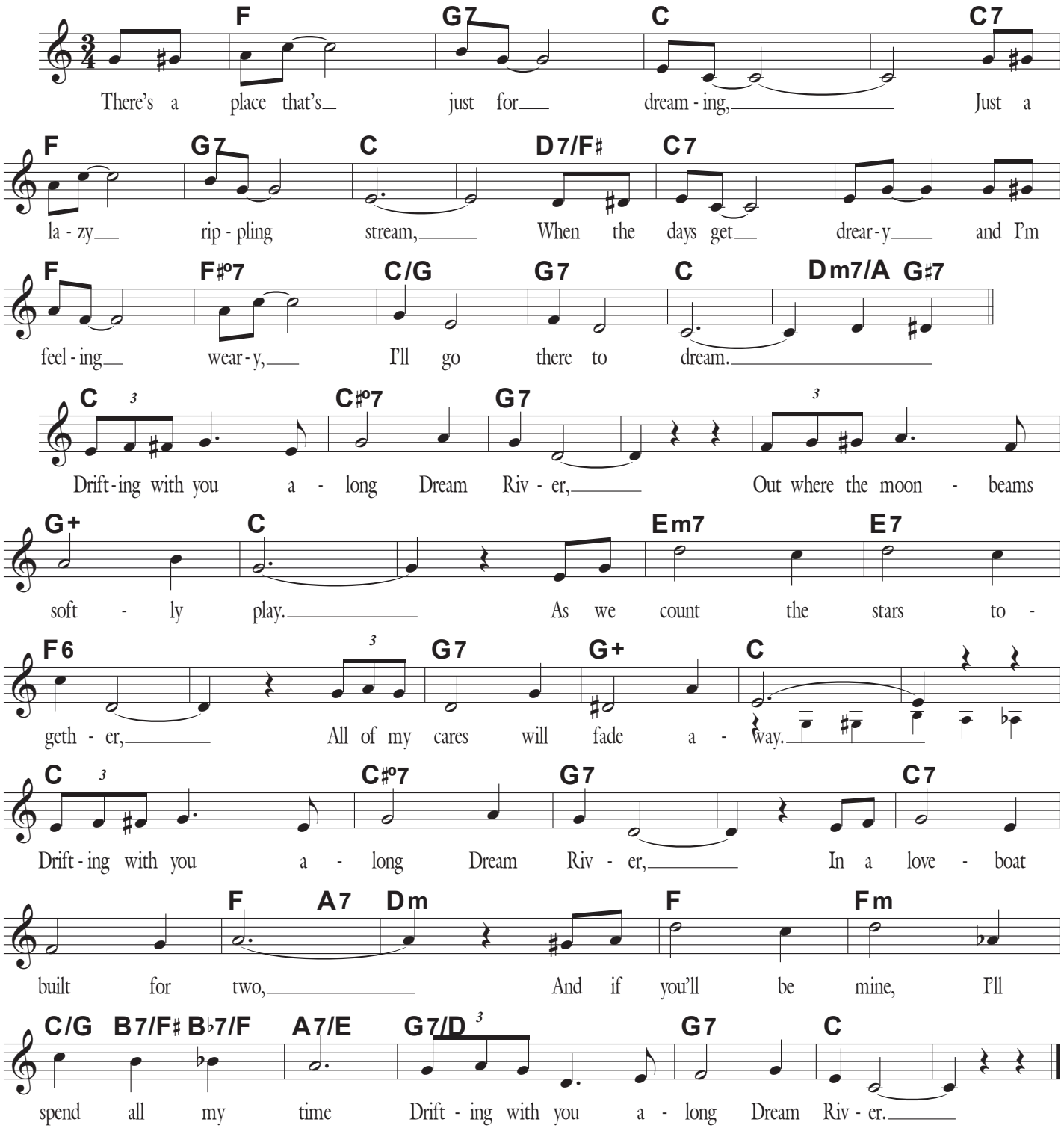
sheet music key: E-flat



Dream River

sheet music key: E-flat

George Brown • 1928



Dusky Stevedore

sheet music key: F

music by J.C. Johnson • words by Andy Razaf • 1928



God's River

Baskett • 1928



Here Comes the Show Boat

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Maceo Pinkard • words by Billy Rose • 1927



lead sheet created by Hoyle Osborne • mail@hoyleosborne.com


F F+ Dm G7 C Am/C E7/B C7/B♭
choc - 'late bon, bon, bon, bon bud - dy's is right, They're play - in'
Am Am(maj7) Am7 D7 G7 G+
Un - cle Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom's Cab - in to - night. Here comes the
C C+ F D7
show boat, here comes the show boat,
G Am7 G G7 C F7 C
Puff, puff, puff, puff, puff, puff, puff - in' a - long.
C G7 C D7 G7
Now, la - dies and gen - tle men, let's be - gin, We're show - in' Un - cle Tom and East Lynne,
C Aø7/E♭ G/D D+ G F°7
Af - ter the dra - ma, a min - strel show, Bro - ther Eph - ra - ham, let's go. Oh!
F Dm/F C/G G7/F C/E G+
you'll start in danc - in' when that man Joe Plays Dix - ie-land on his old ban - jo,
C Aø7/E♭ G/D D+ G
La - dies and gen - tle-men, slap your thighs, And ev - 'ry-bod - y har - mo - nize.

I Wish't I Was in Peoria

music by Harry Woods • words by Billy Rose & Mort Dixon • 1925
as recorded by Frank Crumit

sheet music key: B-flat / E-flat



Lazy River

Hoagy Carmichael & Sidney Arodin • 1931

sheet music key: F



Levee Land

sheet music key: C

music by Albert Gumble • lyric by Howard E. Rogers • 1922



Lou'siana

sheet music key: B-flat / E-flat

music by Walter Donaldson • words by Gus Kahn • 1923



Louisville Lou

sheet music key: D and G

(The Vampin' Lady)

music by Miton Ager • lyrics by Jack Yellen • 1923



Mississippi Choo-Choo

sheet music key: E-flat

P.L. Frost & Fred Rose • 1923




C7 F7 D7 G7 C7 F7
I get a pa - per from home ev - 'ry day Just to see what hap - pens while
gro - cer got ar - rest - ed as a prof - i - teer, They said the things in his store were just a
peo - ple threw the May - or right off of his perch, They e - ven put him out of the
D7 G7 C C7 F A♭7
I'm a - way, It said my tail - or's o - ver nine - ty and still liv - ing yet, I guess they
lit - tle too dear. The pros - e - cu - tor got a lot of ev - i - dence, Be - cause he
Sun - day church. They claim he went to town and stayed un - til nine, And
C/G C F/A D7 G7 C D7 G7 C
want to re - mind me that I'm still in debt. The
sold a doz - en eggs for fif - teen cents. The
he came home sing - ing Sweet Ad - e - line, But
D7/F♯ F7 Am/E D7 G E♭7/B♭ D7/A D7 G A♯°7
there'll be joys ga - lore If I live two weeks more.
D.S. al Fine

Mississippi Mud

Harry Barris • 1927



Mississippi Ripples

sheet music key: E-flat

James F. Hanley & Mary Earl • 1922



Mississippi Steamboat

(Take Me Home)

sheet music key: F

Helen Walker • 1922



Muddy Water

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Peter DeRose & Harry Richman • words by Jo Trent • 1926



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My Ohio Home

sheet music key: F

music by Walter Donaldson • lyric by Gus Kahn • 1927



My Sunny Tennessee

Bert Kalmar, Harry Ruby & Herman Ruby • 1921

sheet music key: G



New Orleans Wiggle

sheet music key: C

Peter Bocage, A.J. Piron & Clarence Williams • 1924



Ol' Man River

words by Oscar Hammerstein II • music by Jerome Kern • 1927



Ready for the River

sheet music key: G

music by Neil Moret • lyrics by Gus Kahn • 1928



Ridin' on the Steamer J.S.

sheet music key: C

Harry E. Jarrett • 1925



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River, Stay 'Way From My Door

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Harry Woods • lyrics by Mort Dixon • 1931



Riverboat Shuffle

Hoagy Carmichael, Dick Voynow, Irving Mills & Mitchell Parrish • 1925



Roll Along, Missouri

sheet music key: C

music by M.K. Jerome • lyric by Bert Kalmar & Harry Ruby • 1923



Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On

sheet music key: G

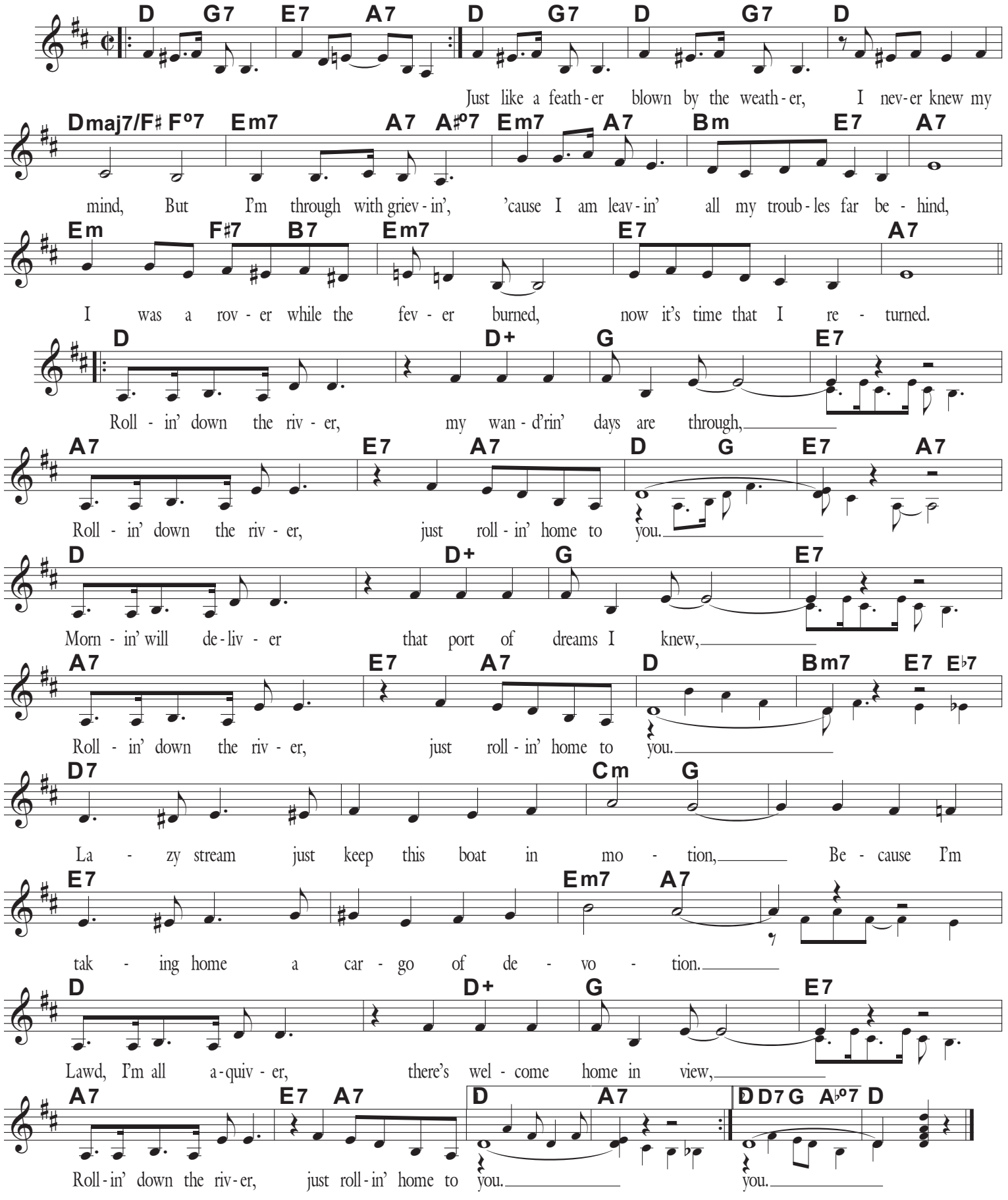
Eugene West, James McCaffrey & Dave Ringle • 1931



Rollin' Down the River

sheet music key: G

music by Thomas Waller • lyrics by R. Stanley Adams • 1930



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Sadie Green

The Vamp of New Orleans

sheet music key: F

Gilbert Wells & Johnny Dunn • 1926



lead sheet created by Hoyle Osborne • mail@hoyleosborne.com

St. James Infirmary

sheet music key: E minor

Joe Primrose • 1930



Steamboat Blues

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Walter Donaldson • words by Gus Kahn • 1923



Steamboat Sal

sheet music key: G

Fred Fisher, Willie Raskin & Bob Causer • 1923



Sweet Indiana Home

Walter Donaldson • 1922

sheet music key: D and G



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A7 D/F♯ F♯o7 A7 A♯o7
One o' clock you'll find me in an up-per berth, Two o' clock I'll start to dream for
B7 Em
all I'm worth, Three o' clock they start the Pull - man sym-pho - ny,
E7 A7 D D/F♯ F♯o7 A7
Ev - 'ry-bod - y snor - in' in a diff-'rent key. Four o'clock I'llkind - a o - pen up my eyes,
A♯o7 B7
Five o' clock the In - di - an - a sun will rise, Six o' clock the en - gi-neer will
E/B B♭7 D/A B7 E7 A7 D A7(♭9)
sound the a - larm, Sev'n o' clock you'll find me back down on the farm. "Way

D.S. al Fine

Wabash Blues

sheet music keys: B-flat and E-flat

music by Fred Meinken • words by Dave Ringle • 1921




A♭7
G
feel that I could die.
G7
C
C♯°7
Can - dle - light that gleams,
G7
C
C7
F
Haunts me in my dreams, I'll pack
C
G7
C
G7
my walk-ing shoes To lose those Wa-bash
C
G
Blues.
Blues.
G
B7/F♯
Em
G/D
E♭/G
B♭7/F
Through the syc-a-more the can-dle-light is shin-ing bright, Mem-'ry brings the scent of new-mown
'Spect to see the moon-shine on the Wa-bash an-y night, Sweems that such a pic-ture's bound to
E♭
B♭7/F
A7/E
Aø7/E♭
A7/E
Aø7/E♭
D7
hay to me each night, I am start-ing for that spot, no need to ask me when,
turn me to the right, Mak-ing up my mind to see that home so far a-way,
G
G7
C/G
Cm/G
G
C/G
Cm/G
G
I'll be leav-ing hoof-prints t'ward the old home road a-gain. best that I can say:
But un-til that hap-pens, here's the

'Way Down Yonder in New Orleans

sheet music key: F

Creamer & Layton • 1922

D A7 D D°7 D

Guess! Where do you think I'm go - in' when the winds start blow - in' strong?
Guess! What do you think I'm think - in' when you think I'm think - in' wrong?

Bm F♯7 Bm

Guess! Where do you think I'm go - in' when the nights start grow - in' long? I
Guess! What do you think I'm think - in' when I'm think - in' all night long? I

D G D E7 D

ain't go - in' East, I ain't go - in' West, I ain't go - in' o - ver the cuck - oo's nest. I'm bound for the town that
ain't think-in' this, I ain't think-in' that, I can - not be think-in' a - bout your hat, My heart does not start to

G E7 A7

I love best, where life is one sweet song.
pit - a - pat un - less I hear this song:

A7 Dmaj7

'Way down yon der in New Or - leans, In the land of dream-y scenes,

D A7 A°7 A7 A+ D

There's a gar - den of E - den, That's what I mean.

A7 Dmaj7

Cre - ole ba - bies with flash-ing eyes, Soft - ly whis - per with ten - der sighs,

D7 G D+ G

"Stop! Oh, won't you give your la - dy fair a lit - tle smile?"

E7 A7

Stop! You bet your life you'll lin - ger there a lit - tle while.

D Bm D B♭7

There is Heav - enright here on earth With those beau - ti - ful queens,

D A7 D

'Way down yon - der in New Or - leans.

Weary River

music by Louis Silvers • words by Grant Clarke • 1929

sheet music key: E-flat



When It's Sleepy Time Down South

sheet music key: E-flat

Leon & Otis René & Clarence Muse • 1931



Where the Shy Little Violets Grow

sheet music key: F

Gus Kahn & Harry Warren • 1928



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Cruising Down the River

Eily Beadell & Nell Tollerton • 1945



(When It's)

Darkness on the Delta

sheet music key: E-flat

music by Jerry Levinson • words by Marty Symes & Al J. Neiburg • 1932



Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?

words by Eddie De Lange • music by Louis Alter • 1946



I Cover the Waterfront

music by John Green • lyrics by Edward Heyman • 1933

sheet music key: G



Louisiana

sheet music keys: F minor - A-flat

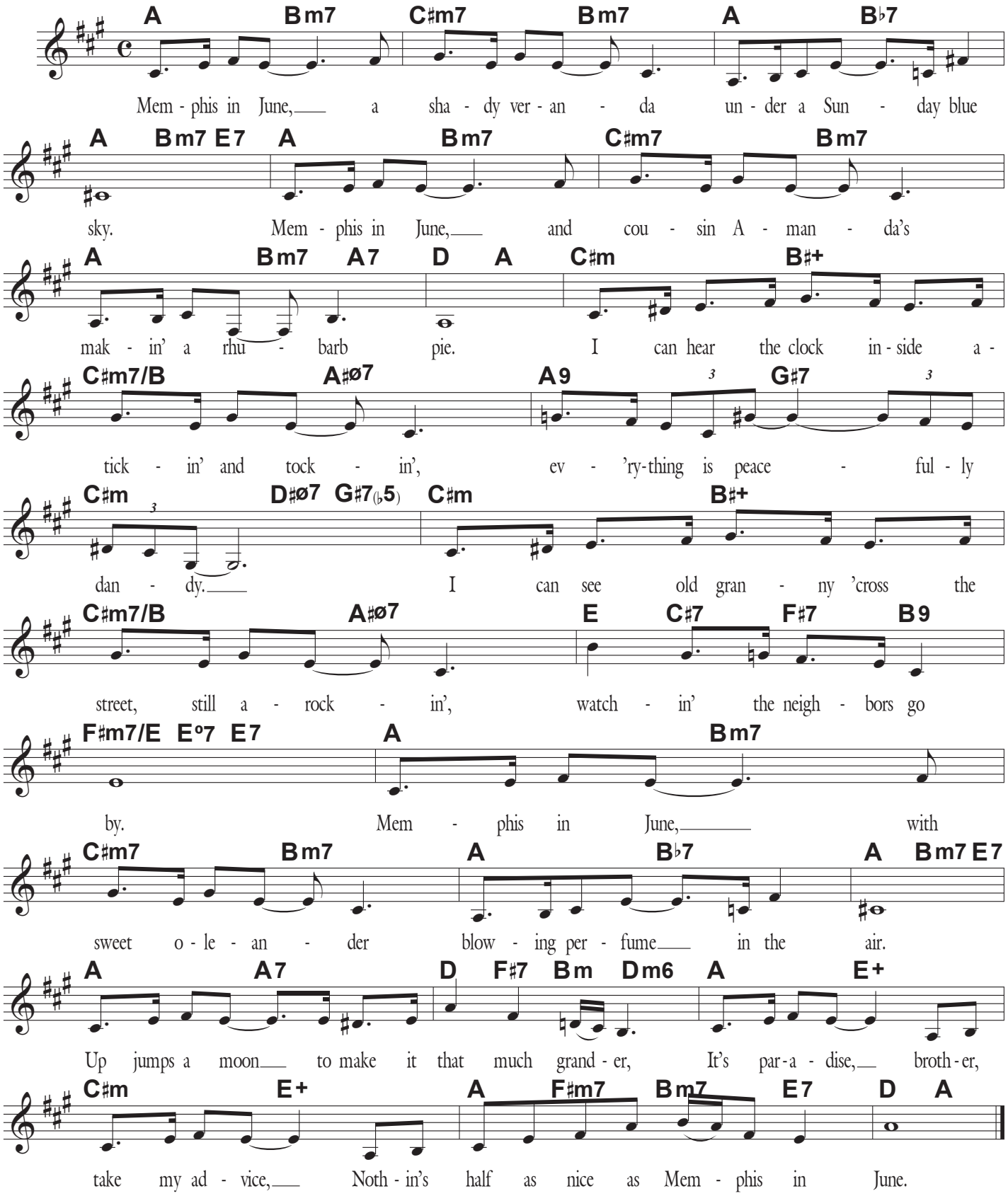
music by J.C. Johnson • words by Andy Razaf & Bob Schafer • 1936



Memphis in June

sheet music key: C

music by Hoagy Carmichael • words by Paul Francis Webster • 1948



Mississippi Basin

sheet music key: F

music by Reginald Foresythe • lyric by Andy Razaf • 193



My River Home

sheet music key: G

music by Bernice Petkere • words by Joe Young • 1932



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New Orleans

sheet music key: C

Hoagy Carmichael • 1932



The River's Takin' Care of Me

R.S. Adams • J. Greer • 1933




E♭ A♭ E♭ A♭ E♭ Gø7/D♭ C7 F7
I got that riv-er, that friend-ly riv-er, He gives me ev-'ry-thing free, I love that riv-er, the
C♭7 B♭7 E♭ Cm7 F7 B♭7 E♭ A♭ E♭ A♭
riv-er's tak-in care of me. I catch my break-fast, I catch my sup-per,
E♭ Gø7/D♭ C7 F7 C♭7 B♭7 E♭ F7B♭7
With-out him, where would I be? I love that riv-er, the riv-er's tak-in care of me.
E♭7 A♭ E♭ A♭ E♭ C7
He nev-er stops to ask the rea-son I'm here, Just fills my emp-ty bowl, All he has he's
Fm F7 B♭7 E♭ A♭ E♭ A♭
will-in' to share, I guess that riv-er has a soul! If I got trou-bles, he takes my trou-bles,
E♭ Gø7/D♭ C7 F7 C♭7 B♭7 E♭ A♭
And carries them out to the sea, I love that riv-er, the riv-er's tak-in care of me.
E♭ Cm7 F7 C♭7 B♭7 E♭ F7 B♭7 E♭ B♭7 E♭
I love that riv-er, the riv-er's tak-in care of me.

Blue Bayou

Roy Orbison & Joe Melson • 1961



Bridge Over Troubled Water

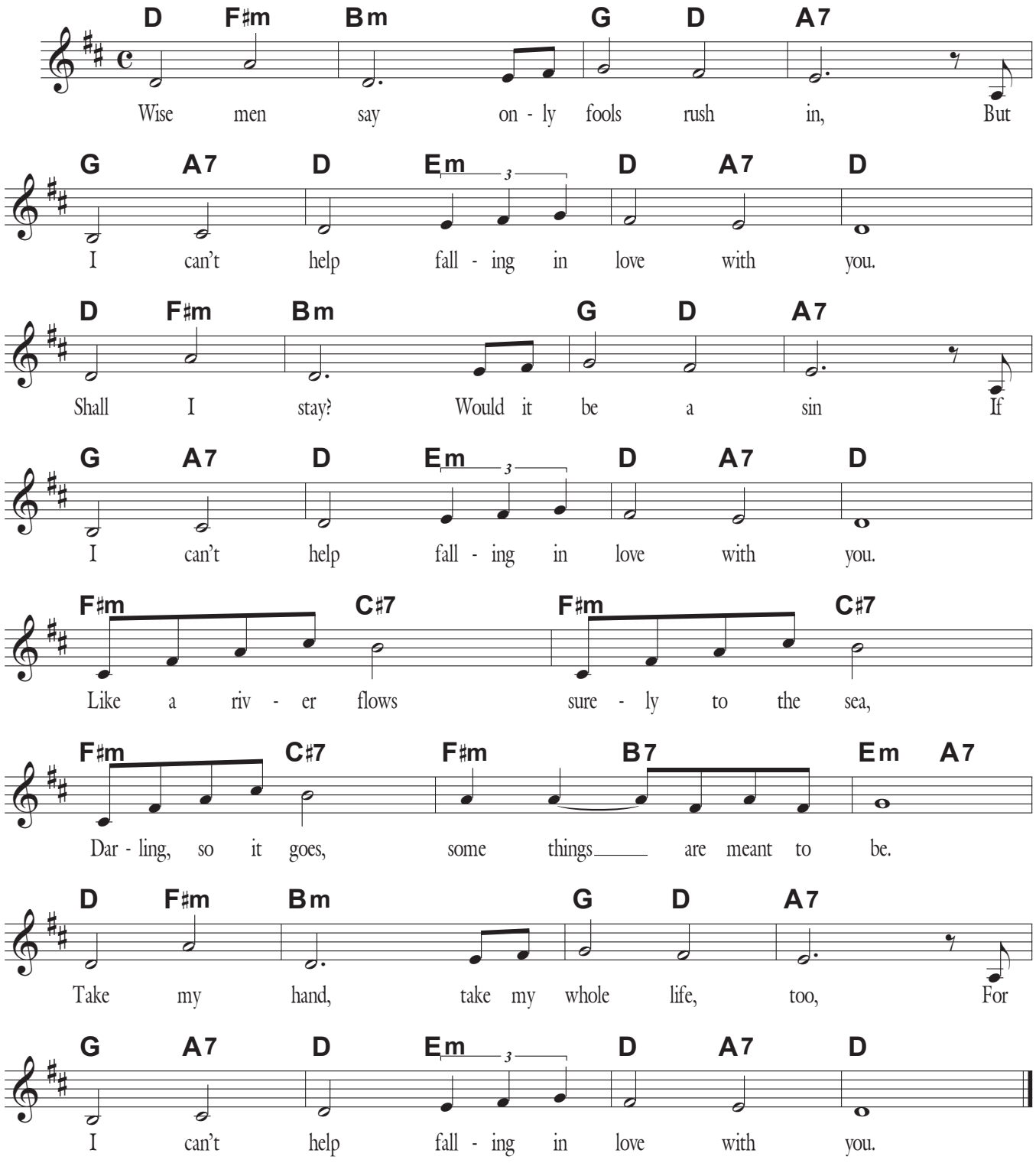
Paul Simon • 1969




2. A F♯m D F♯m C♯ F♯m B7
troub led wat-er, I will lay me down.
A D F♯m D Dm A D
A D A D
Sail on
A D A D
sil - ver girl, sail on by, Your time has
A D A D A D
come to shine, All your dreams are on their way,
A E F♯m E A /G♯
See how they shine, Oh, if you need a friend,
A7/G D B E A7 D D♯°7
I'm sail - ing right be - hind, Like a bridge o - ver
A F♯m D F♯m C♯ F♯m A7 D B7
troub led wat-er, I will ease your mind, Like a bridge o - ver
A/E F♯m D C♯7 F♯m B9 Bmaj7/A♯
troub - led wat-er, I will ease your mind.
A D Dm A

Can't Help Falling in Love

George Weiss, Hugo Peretti & Luigi Creatore • 1961



A Change Is Gonna Come

Sam Cooke recording in B-flat

Sam Cooke • 1964



The City of New Orleans

Steve Goodman • 1970



Dealin' cards to the old men in the club car,
Penny a point and no one's keepin' score,
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle,
You can feel the wheels grumblin' through the floor.
The sons of Pullman porters and teh sons of engineers
Ride their fathers's magic carpet made of steam,
And mothers with their babes asleep are rockin' to the gentle beat,
The rhythm of the rails is all they dream.

Nighttime on The City of New Orleans,
Changing cars in Memphis, Tennessee,
Halfway home, we'll be there by mornin',
Through the Mississippi darkness rolling down to the sea.
But all the towns and people seem to fade into a bad dream,
And the steel rail still ain't heard the news.
The conductor sings his songs again,
"The passengers will please refrain,"
This train's got the disappearing railroad blues.

Good night, America, how are you?
Don't you know me, I'm your native son,
I'm the train they call the City of New Orleans,
I'll be gone five hundred miles when day is done.

Intro - Riff - Verse 1 - Chorus
Riff - Verse 2 - Chorus
Bridge - Chorus - Chorus

Come On Down to My Boat

Recorded by Every Mother's Son in B-flat

Wes Farrell & Jerry Goldstein • 1966



Cry Me a River

open with Am - F - Am6 - F vamp

Arthur Hamilton • 1953



vamp on Am - F - Am6 - F
then end with last two bars - end on Am

Intro - 1st 32 bars
Verse 1
break - bars 34 - 64
Verse 2: extra phrase + bars 41 - end
tag bar 57 - end

Delta Queen Waltz

John Hartford



Green River

sheet music key: C blues scale [flat 3 and flat 7]

John C. Fogerty • 1969



lead sheet created by Hoyle Osborne • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Louisiana 1927

sheet music key: E-flat

Randy Newman • 1974




G(add9) Asus4 G/B D/A G D A/C#
us a-way, they're tryin' to wash us a-way. Pres-i-dent Cool-idge come down in a
Bm7 E7 G/A G/D D G
rail-road train, with a lit-tle fat man with a note-pad in his hand,
D A/C# Bm7
Pres-i-dent say, "Lit-tle fat man, is-n't it a shame what the
E7 G/A D G Asus4 D F#m7/C# F#7/C#
riv-er has done to this poor crack-er's land? Lou-i-si-an-a, Lou-i-si-
Bm D7/A G(add9) Asus4
an-a, they're tryin to wash us a-way, they're tryin to wash
G/B D/A G Asus4 D F#m7/C# F#7/C# Bm D7/A
us a-way, Lou-i-si-an-a, Lou-i-si-an-a, they're tryin to wash
G(add9) Asus4 G/A D/A G D/F#
us a-way, they're tryin to wash us a-way, they're tryin' to wash
E7 G/A D G D
us a-way, they're tryin' to wash us a-way.

Lullabye in Ragtime

sheet music ke: F

Sylva Fine • 1959



MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS

Words and music by Henry Roeland Byrd (Professor Longhair) in 1949.

Bb	𝄎	𝄎	𝄎
Eb7	𝄎	Bb	𝄎
F7	𝄎	Bb	𝄎



MARDI GRAS MAMBO

Words and music by Frankie Adams and Lou Welsch in 1953.

Bb	F7	𝄎	Bb	𝄎	F7	𝄎	Bb
Eb7	𝄎	Bb	𝄎	F7	𝄎	𝄎	Bb



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Memphis, Tennessee

Chuck Berry • 1959

sheet music key: G



Moody River

Pat Boone recording in A-flat

Gary Bruce • 1961



Moon River

music by Henry Mancini • lyrics by Johnny Mercer • 1961



Proud Mary

(Rolling on the River)

John Fegerty • 1969



Ripple

music by Jerry Garcia • words by Robert Hunter • 1973



The River of No Return

music by Lionel Newman • lyrics by Ken Darby • 1954

published in E-flat
Marilyn sings in B-flat

over pedal bass E



Somos el barco

Lorre Wyatt • 1984



last time only - repeat Chorus - repeat last line

arranged by Hoyle Osborne © 2009

Steamboat

recorded by The Drifters in C

Buddy Lucas • 1955



Oh, well, I've got to find out, pretty baby,
Do you want your daddy back?
I got a whole lot of water to drink up,
I'll stop a --- dead in his tracks.
Chorus

Chorus break

You know, Jonah lived a while in the belly of the whale,
David slew Goliath, too,
And there is nothing in this world that will stop me, pretty baby,
Until I find my way back home to you.
Chorus

Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again

Bob Dylan • 1966



Well, Shakespeare, he's in the alley with his pointed shoes and bells,
Speaking to some French girl who says she knows me well,
And I would send a message to find out if she's talked,
But the post office has been stolen and the mailbox is locked.

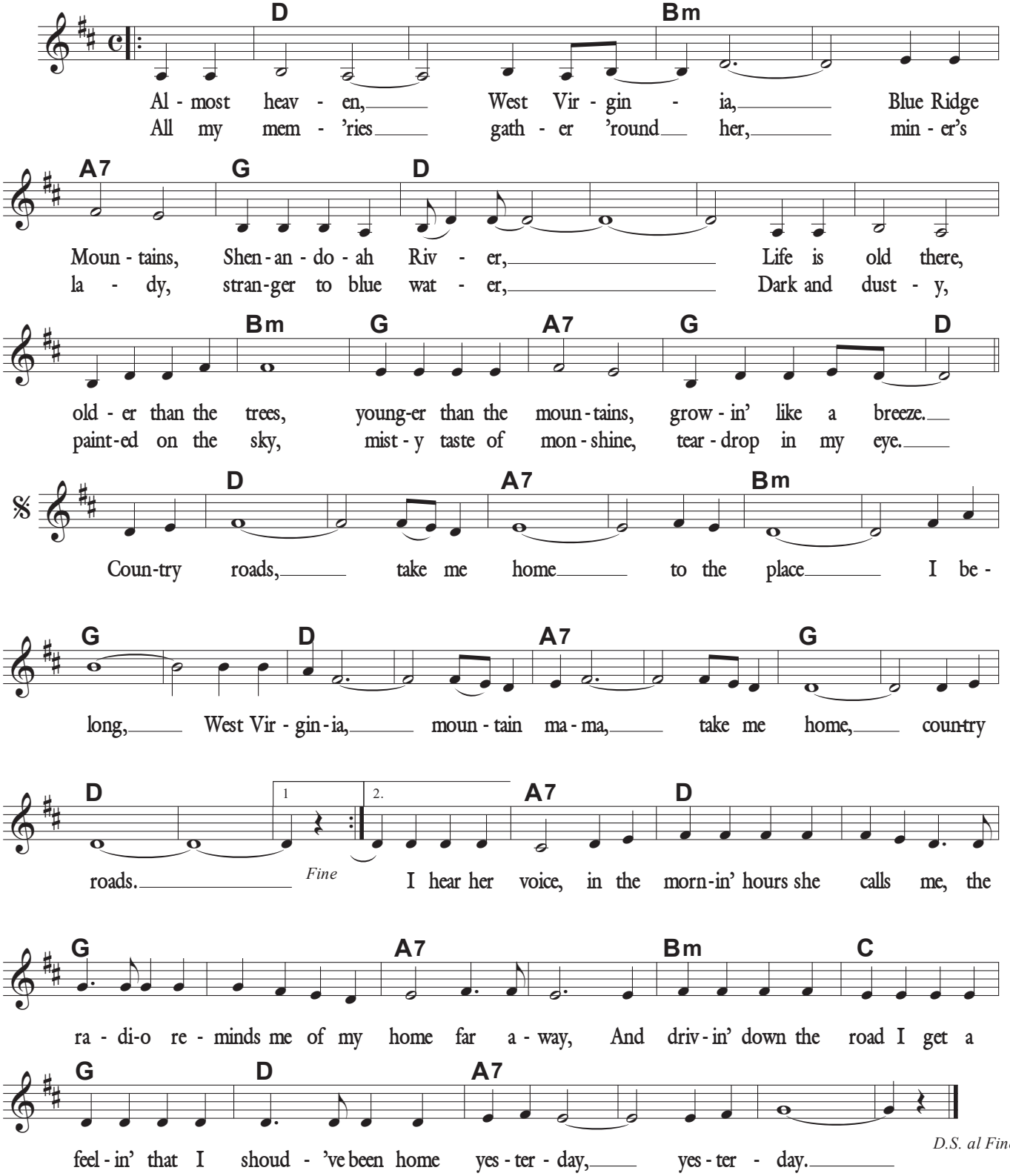
Mona tried to tell me to stay away from the train line,
She said that all the railroad men just drink up your blood like wine,
An' I said, "Oh, I didn't know that, but then again, there's only one I've met,
An' he just smoked my eyelids an' punched my cigarette."

Grandpa died last week, and now he's buried in the rocks,
But everybody still talks about how badly they were shocked,
But me, I expected it to happen, I knew he'd lost control,
When he built a fire on Main Street and shot it full of holes.

Now the senator came down here, showing ev'ryone his gun,
Handing out free tickets to the wedding of his son,
An' me, I nearly got busted, an' wouldn't it be my luck,
To get caught without a ticket and be discovered beneath a truck.

Take Me Home, Country Roads

Bill Danoff & Taffy Nivert (+ John Denver) • 1971



Tennessee Blues

recorded in F

Bobby Charles • 1967



CODA: repeat from "Some place I could lose"

Up to My Neck in High Muddy Waters

recorded by The Greenbriar Boys in F

John Herald, Frank Wakefield & Robert Yellin • 1966



WALKING TO NEW ORLEANS

Words and music by Antoine Domino, Dave Bartholomew and Robert Guidry in 1960.

Bb	𝄎	Eb	𝄎
F	Eb	Bb	𝄎



2. I've got my suitcase in my hand
Now, ain't that a shame
I'm leavin' here today
Yes, I'm goin' back home to stay
Yes, I'm walkin' to New Orleans

3. You used to be my honey
Till you spent all my money
No use for you to cry
I'll see you by and by
'Cause I'm walkin' to New Orleans

4. I've got no time for talkin'
I've got to keep on walkin'
New Orleans is my home
That's the reason why I'm goin'
Yes, I'm walkin' to New Orleans

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Alligator Man

Recorded by Jimmy C. Newman in A

Floyd Chance • 1961



This bayou country is my home,
From this place I'll never roam,
For I'm the leader of the clan
Known as the alligator man.

When I bring my hides to town
All the people gather 'round,
They just want to shake the hand
Of the tall 'gator man.

Some people search the world for fame,
But fightin' 'gators is my game,
And the scars upon my hand
Prove I'm an alligator man.

A 'gator man till I die,
When I marry, by and by,
The pretty girl from Bayou Chien,
We'll raise a little 'gator man.

Big River

Johnny Cash • 1957



Blue Moon of Kentucky

Bill Monroe • 1947



Eight More Miles to Louisville

sheet music key: F

Grandpa Jones • 1947



Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Foggy River

Fred Rose



Happy on the Mississippi Shore

recorded in D-flat
harmony starts a 6th above melody

Alton & Rabon Delmore • 1940



I've Got the Big River Blues

Delmore Brothers



Jambalaya
(On the Bayou)

sheet music key: C

Hank Williams • 1952



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Kentucky

Blue Sky Boys recording in G

Karl Davis & Harty Taylor • 1947



Kentucky, you are the dearest land outside of heaven to me,
Kentucky, I miss your laurel and your redbud tree.
When I die, I want to rest upon a graceful mountain so high,
For that is where God will look for me.

Kentucky, I miss the voices singing in the silvery moonlight,
Kentucky, I miss the hound dog chasin' coon.
I know that my mother, dad, and sweetheart are a-waiting for me,
Kentucky, I will be coming soon.

When I die, I want to rest upon a graceful mountain so high,
For that is where God will look for me.

Kentucky Waltz

Bill Monroe • 1938



Louisiana Man

sheet music key: D

Doug Kershaw • 1961



repeat Bridge and last A of Verse 1

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M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

sheet music key: C

Curley Williams & Billy Simmons • 1950



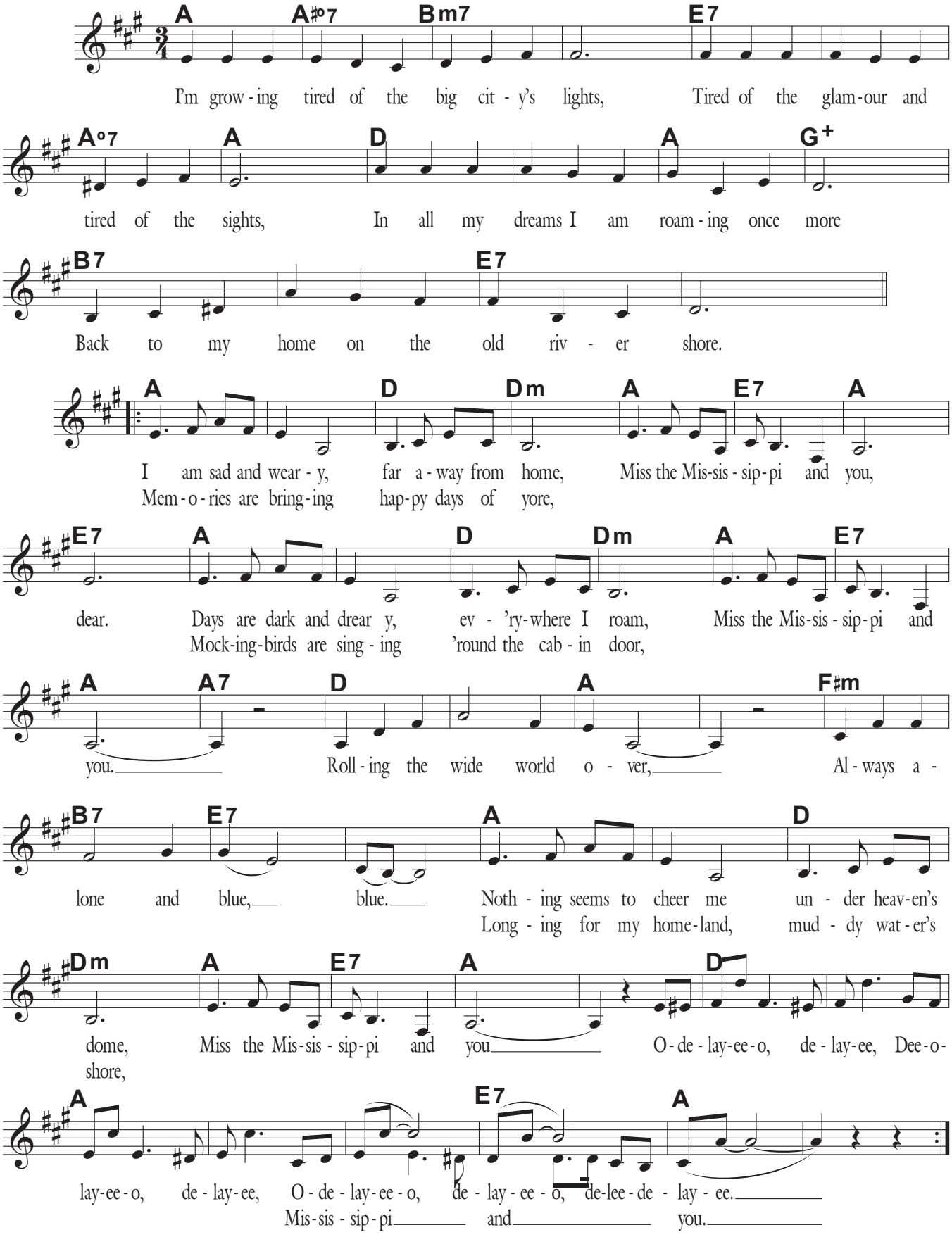
Me and Bobby McGee

Kris Kristofferson & Fred Foster • 1969



Miss the Mississippi and You

Bill Halley • 1932



Mississippi Delta Blues

Rodgers & Neville • 1933



Mississippi River Blues

Jimmie Rodgers • 1929



The River

Victoria Shaw & Garth Brooks • 1991




Am F C F
And there's bound to be rough wat - ers, and I know I'll take some falls, But with the
Dm7 C/E F G7sus4 G7
good Lord as my cap - tain, I can make it through them all.
Em7 A7 D G/D D G/D D G D/F♯
Yes I will sail my ves - sel 'til the riv - er runs dry, Like a bird up - on the wind, these
Em7 A Bm A/C♯ D G/D D G
wat - ers are my sky. I'll nev - er reach my des - ti - na - tion if I nev - er try, So I will
D G/D D A7 D G D G/D D
sail my ves - sel 'til the riv - er runs dry. Yes, I will sail my ves - sel 'til the
A7 G A D
riv - er runs dry.

Rock About My Saro Jane

from Uncle Dave Macon • 1927



Boiler busted and the whistle done blowed,
The head captain done fell overboard.
Oh, Saro Jane!

Engine gave a crack and the whistle gave a squall,
The engineer gone to the Hole in the Wall.
Oh, Saro Jane!

Yankees built boats for to shoot them rebels,
My musket's loaded and I'm gonna hold her level.
Oh, Saro Jane!

from *Singing America's History* © 2011 by Hoyle Osborne, Obscure Origins Music (BMI)

Rocky Top

Felice & Boudleaux Bryant • 1967



Roll Along, Kentucky Moon

recorded in C

Bill Halley • 1932



lead sheet created by Hoyle Osborne • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Run Softly, Blue River

sheet music key: C

Johnny Cash • 1959



CODA: First vocal line, ending with "deep", repeat ad lib

Steamboat Keep Rockin'

sheet music key: E minor / G

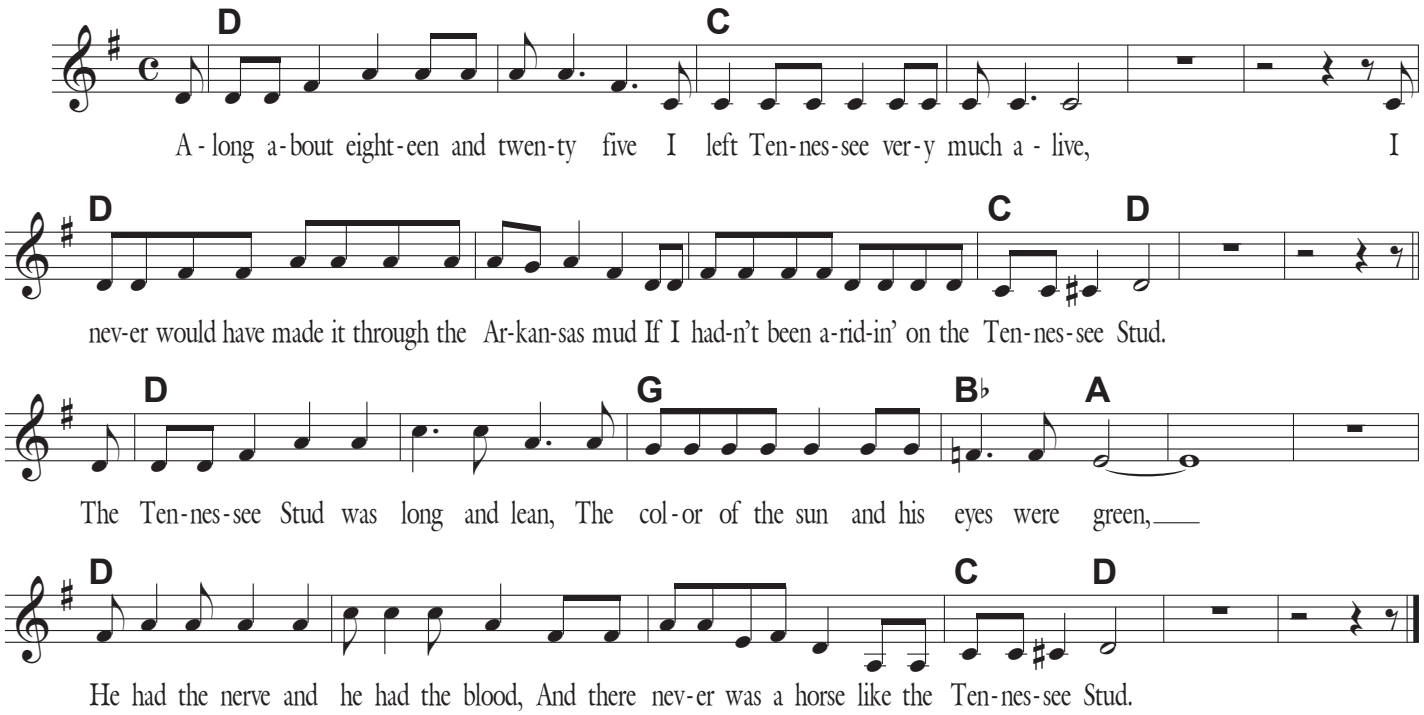
Carson J. Robison • 1928



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Tennessee Stud

Jimmy Driftwood • 1958



I had some trouble with my sweetheart's pa,
One of her brothers was a bad outlaw.
I sent her a letter by my uncle Thud,
And I road away on the Tennessee Stud.

One day I was riding in a beautiful land,
I run smack into an Indian band.
They jumped their nags with a whoop and a yell,
And away we rode like a bat out of hell.

I circled their camp for a time or two
Just to show what a Tennessee horse can do.
The redskin boys couldn't get my blood
'Cause I was a-riding on the Tennessee Stud.

I drifted on down into no-man's land,
We crossed the river called the Rio Grande.
I raced my horse with the Spaniards bold,
'Til I got me a skin full of silver and gold.

Me and a gambler, we couldn't agree,
We got in a fight over Tennessee.
We jerked our guns, he fell with a thud,
And I got away on the Tennessee Stud.

I got just as lonesome as a man can be,
A-dreamin' of my girl in Tennessee.
The Tennessee Stud's green eyes turned blue,
'Cause he was a-dreamin' of a sweetheart, too.

I loped right back across Arkansas,
And I whupped her brother and I whupped her pa.
I found that girl with the golden hair,
And she was a-ridin' on a Tennessee mare.

Stirrup to stirrup and side by side,
We crossed the mountains and the valleys wide.
We came to Big Muddy, then we forded the flood,
On the Tennessee mare and the Tennessee Stud.

Pretty little baby on the cabin floor,
And a little horse colt playin' 'round the door.
I love that girl with the golden hair,
And the Tennessee Stud loves the Tennessee mare.

Tennessee Waltz

sheet music key: C

Redd Stewart & Pee Wee King • 1948



Boatman's Dance

sheet music key: F

sung by the Virginia Minstrels • 1845



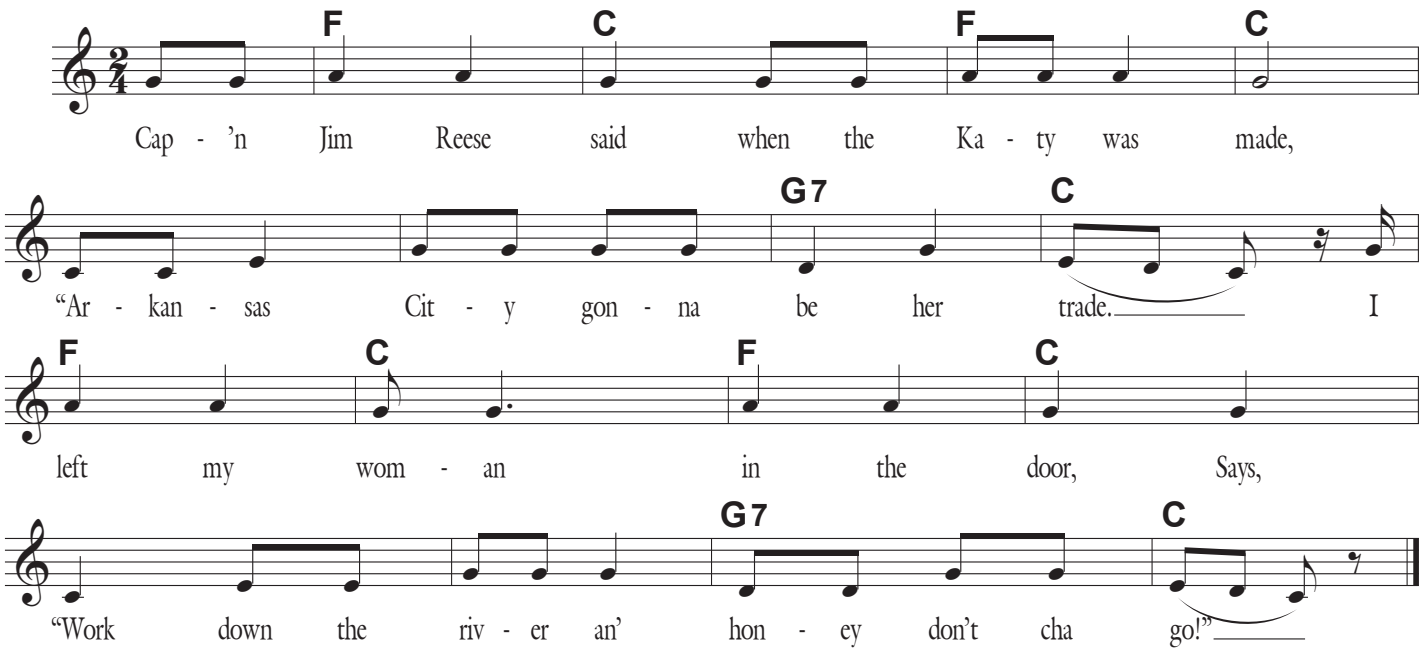
When you go to the boatmen's ball,
Dance with my wife or don't dance at all.
Sky blue jacket, tarpaulin hat,
Look out, boys, for the nine-tail cat.

When the boatman blows his horn,
Look out, old man, your hog is gone.
He stole my sheep, he stole my shoat,
Then put 'em in the bag and tote 'em to the boat.

Over the mountain, slick as an eel,
The boatman slide down on his heel.
The wind did blow, the waves did toss,
I believe to my soul, the boatman's lost.

Cap'n Jim Reese Said

collected by Mary Wheeler • *Roustabout Songs* • 1939



Oh, Cap'n will you be so good an' kind?
Take all the cotton, leave the seed behind.
Heap seed an' a few knows,
Heap stahts an' a few goes!

I ain't gonna tell nobody
What they done to me,
But if ever I get to the long plank walk,
I won't come here no more!

Darling Nelly Gray

sheet music key: E-flat

B.R. Hanby • 1856



One night I went to see her, but "She's gone!" the neighbors say,
The white man bound her with his chain;
They have taken her to Georgia for to wear her life away,
As she toils in the cotton and the cane.

My canoe is under water and my banjo is unstrung,
I'm tired of living any more,
My eyes shall look downward and my song shall be unsung,
While I stay on the old Kentucky shore.

My eyes are getting blinded and I cannot see my way;
Hark! there's somebody knocking at the door —
Oh! I hear the angels calling and I see my Nelly Gray,
Farewell to the old Kentucky shore.

Last Chorus
Oh! my darling Nelly Gray, up in heaven there they say,
That they'll never take you from me any more,
I'm a-coming, coming, coming, as the angels clear the way,
Farewell to the old Kentucky shore!

Deep River

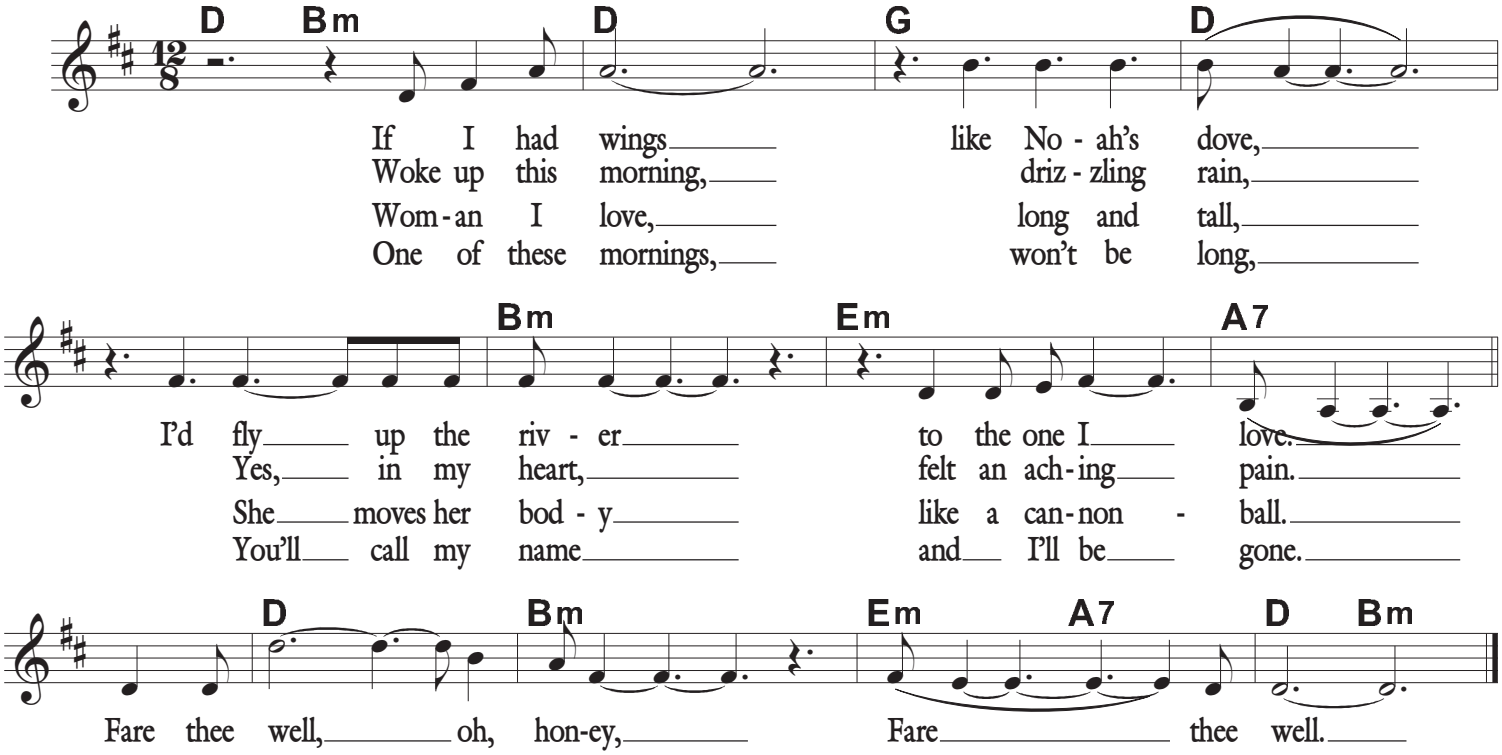
sheet music key: D-flat

H.T. Burleigh • *Celebrated Negro Spirituals* • 1917



Dink's Song

adapted from the singing of Dave Van Ronk



Down by the Riverside

(I Ain't Gonna Study War No More)

19th Century African-American spiritual
arranged & adapted with new words by Hoyle Osborne



I'm gonna put on my long white robe

I'm gonna meet my mama and papa there

I'm gonna walk with the Prince of Peace

I'm gonna beat my sword into a plough

new words by Hoyle Osborne © 1997, Obscure Origins Music (BMI)

Down in the Cane Brake

from Frank Crumit



Down on the Banks of the Ohio

recorded in D

Blue Sky Boys • 1936



I drew my knife across her throat,
And to my breast she gently pressed.
"Oh please, oh please, don't murder me,
For I'm unprepared to die you see."

I taken her by her lily white hand,
I let her down and I bade her stand.
There I plunged her in to drown,
And watched her as she floated down.

Returning home 'tween twelve and one,
Thinking of the deed I done,
I murdered a girl I love, you see,
Because she would not marry me.
— Chorus

Next day as I was returning home,
I met the sheriff standing in the door.
He said, "Young man come with me and go
Down to the banks of the Ohio."
— Chorus

Fishing Blues

recorded key: G

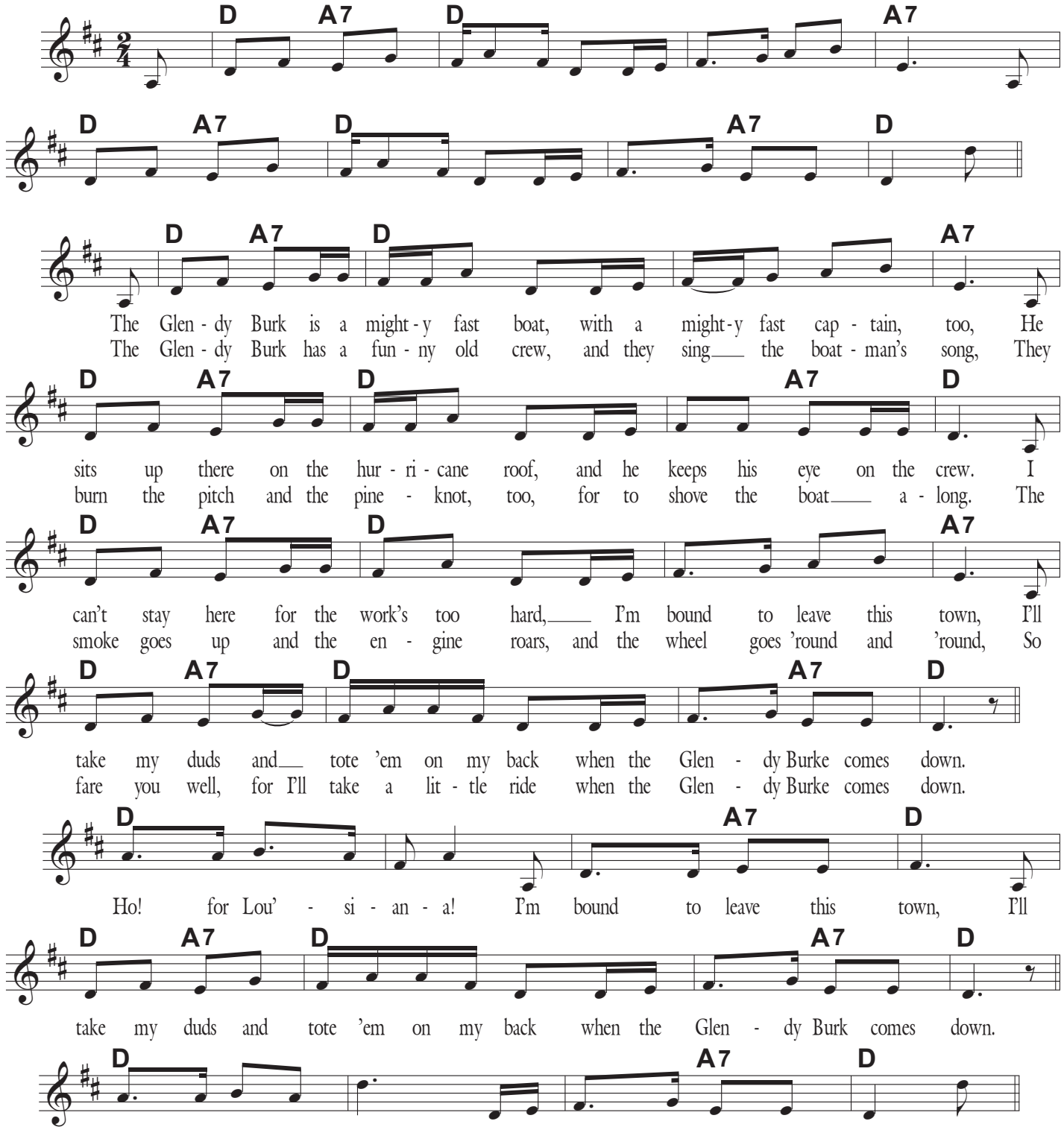
Henry Thomas • 1929
transcribed from Geoff Muldaur with The Jim Kweskin Jug Band



The Glendy Burk

sheet music key: G

Stephen Foster



I'll work all night in the wind and storm,
I'll work all day in the rain,
Till I find myself on the levee dock
In New Orleans again.

They make me mow in the hay field here
And knock my head with the flairl,
I'll go where they work with the sugar and the cane,
And roll on the cotton bale.

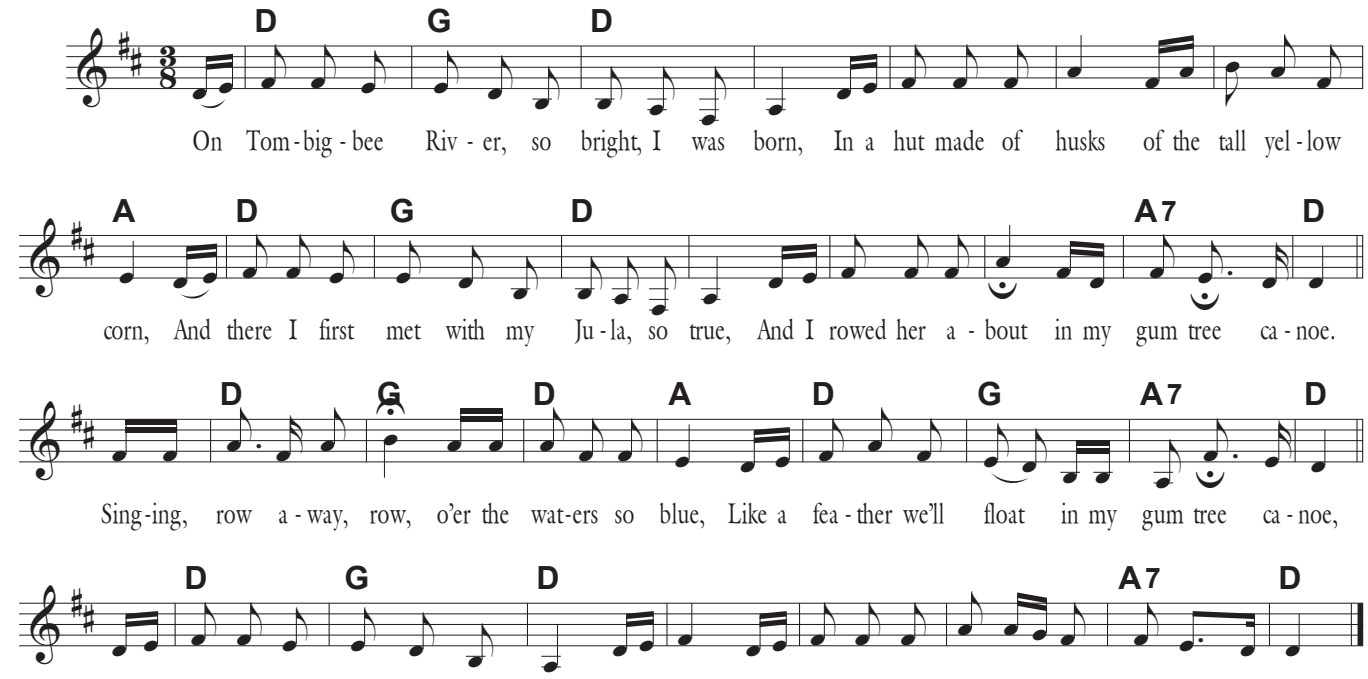
My lady love is as pretty as a pink,
I'll meet her on the way,
I'll take her back to the sunny old south,
And there I'll make her stay.

So don't you fret, my honey, dear,
Oh, don't you fret, Miss Brown,
I'll take you back 'fore the middle of the week,
When the Glendy Burk comes down.

The Gum Tree Canoe

S.S. Steele • 1867

sheet music in the key of G



All day in the field, the soft cotton I hoe,
I think of my Jula, and sing as I go,
Oh, I catch her a bird with a wing of true blue,
And at night sail her 'round in my gum tree canoe.

With my hands on the banjo and toe on the oar,
I sing to the sound of the river's soft roar,
While the stars they look down at my Jula, so true,
And dance in her eyes in my gum tree canoe.

One night the stream bore us so far away
That we couldn't come back, so we thought we'd just stay,
Oh, we spied a tall ship with a flag of true blue,
And it took us in tow with my gum tree canoe.

The House of the Rising Sun

adapted by Alan Price • The Animals • 1964

12/8 rhythm



I've Got Peace Like a River

Wings of Song # 356

arrangement by Hoyle Osborne • 2009



Michael, Row the Boat Ashore

from the Georgia Sea Islands



Sister, help to trim the sail, alleluia,
Sister, help to trim the sail, alleluia.

Brother, lend a helping hand, alleluia,
Brother, lend a helping hand, alleluia

Jordan River is chilly and cold, alleluia,
Chills the body but not the soul, alleluia.

Movin' on Down the River

Jean Ritchie • 1964



Don't choose you a girl with a rovin' eye,
Don't choose the one with money,
But choose you the one with the truest heart,
And kiss her and call her Honey.

Oh, I love that girl, she's a dear little thing,
But the tears they fall and blind me,
For I can't help a-thinkin' once in a while
About the girls I've left behind me.

One More River to Cross

sheet music key: F

from William Stickles • Spirituals



Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Roll, Jordan, Roll

sheet music key: E-flat

The Book of American Negro Spirituals



Hoyle Osborne • www.hoyleosborne.com • mail@hoyleosborne.com

Shall We Gather at the River?

sheet music key: D-flat

Robert Lowry • 1864



Shenandoah

Slowly and freely



from *Singing America's History* © 2011 by Hoyle Osborne, Obscure Origins Music (BMI)

Tell That Woman

recorded in A minor

Willie Dixon • The Big Three Trio • circa 1950



~ break - 16 bars - twice through intro ~

The rudder on the big boat turnin' round and round,
My woman on the levee hoppin' up and down.
She thinks she'll have some money when I come to town,
She's gonna trail me down just like a natural hound.

Big boat up the river blowin' long and sad,
My woman on the levee feelin' mighty glad.
She should-a kept the money that she once had had,
When I get home it's gonna be too bad.

Wade in the Water

sheet music key: E minor

African American spiritual



The Water is Wide



We Are Crossing Jordan River

sheet music key: D

from The Joan Baez Songbook



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